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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 10 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)

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03-55217 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 155: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization *(continued)* (A/58/33, A/58/346 and A/58/347)

1. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that the role of the Special Committee on the Charter was particularly important in today's world in which multilateralism, a characteristic element of the United Nations, was losing force in solving urgent problems of international peace and security, in the face of a growing tendency to apply unilateral policies in violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The job of the Special Committee was to enhance the effectiveness of the mechanisms described in the Charter of the United Nations, and to adapt them to the new international reality in the general framework of activities aimed at strengthening and reforming the role of the Organization, which Belarus generally supported.

2. On the question of streamlining the Committee's work, Belarus supported the revised working paper submitted by Japan and the Republic of Korea, and recommended adoption of the criterion for organizing the work of the Special Committee set out in resolution 3499 (XXX), which would make it possible to set priorities for reviewing the proposals in the Committee with a view to reaching general consensus. Nonetheless, Belarus was very concerned at the document's reference to achieving general consensus as a basis for deciding whether to continue reviewing the proposals. Recognition of that principle could alter the practice of decisions being adopted by consensus and hinder the presentation of initiatives within the scope of its mandate.

3. With regard to proposals for strengthening the Charter provisions on the maintenance of international peace and security, while it had been impossible to complete any of them in the special session of the Committee held in April, the debate had been constructive and had led to significant progress, particularly on the issue of sanctions. There was an urgent need to alleviate the negative humanitarian and material consequences of sanctions, without undermining their effectiveness or general nature. On that point, Belarus welcomed the success achieved in coordinating the main aspects of the document submitted by the Russian Federation on the principles and fundamental criteria of the imposition of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation, and it hoped that consensus would be reached on the document in the special session of 2004, and that the General Assembly would be able to approve it in the following session. Belarus also supported the working paper submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions. The paper made significant contributions and complemented the one submitted by the Russian Federation. Belarus hoped that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would submit a revised version of the paper in the Committee's special session of 2004, which could take the form of a draft resolution. The Committee should make a priority of reviewing the implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. Belarus supported the proposal to establish a working group within the Sixth Committee that would focus on the effects of sanctions on third States and would be able to undertake an in-depth analysis of recommendations and conclusions formulated by the ad hoc expert group on sanctions and their effects on third States, which had met in New York in June 1998.

4. It was important and urgent for the Committee to address agenda issues relating to international peace and security, and in particular to review the revised version of the working papers submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation which recommended seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. Belarus favoured adopting a non-confrontational approach to that document, the only purpose of which was to strengthen the system for maintaining international peace and security enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and thus enhance the authority of the Security Council.

5. With regard to publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, it urged the Secretary-General to persevere with efforts to overcome the delay in publishing those documents, which were a valuable source of information on the Organization's work, and a means to guarantee institutional continuity.

6. **Ms. Komala Devi** (Malaysia) stated that her delegation continued to insist that the United Nations had to remain the main forum responsible for guaranteeing the maintenance of international peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The imposition of sanctions to change the behaviour of the targeted State, should be done cautiously and with equanimity, and should only be used as a last resort. Sanctions should have a clearly defined mandate, and their duration should be limited. They should be reviewed periodically and lifted as soon as the reason for imposing them had ceased to exist. In that regard, Malaysia welcomed the Russian Federation's proposal on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation, which raised important issues concerning the negative consequences of sanctions. Given their serious repercussions, consensus was needed on the general criteria governing them, which would enhance their legitimacy. Malaysia believed it would be worthwhile for the Special Committee to continue studying the revised working paper submitted by the Russian Federation, and insisted that the work of the Security Council on sanctions did not prevent the Special Committee from considering the legal aspects of the issue.

7. Although Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations made the Security Council responsible for mitigating the harm suffered by third States from the introduction of sanctions and other measures that might be adopted, States that had invoked that article had clearly achieved little so far. A more thorough assessment needed to be made of the problems faced by third States, and new methods were needed for calculating the damage suffered by them and for dealing with it. In that regard, Malaysia supported the Special Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should continue reviewing the results of the expert group meeting, as set out in document A/53/312, in whatever manner and substantive framework it deemed appropriate. Malaysia was worried by the slow pace at which the issue was moving forward, and hoped that further progress would be made in the forthcoming meeting of the Special Committee. It was looking forward to a continuation of the review of the proposal submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions.

8. Malaysia believed the initiative to develop a legal framework for United Nations peacekeeping missions was worthy of consideration, and it therefore welcomed the proposal made by the Russian Federation entitled "Fundamentals of the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations". It agreed that the review of the proposal fell within the mandate of the Special Committee, and that the latter would be the appropriate forum for reviewing the legal aspects of peacekeeping operations, which would help to improve such operations and make them more effective as an instrument for maintaining international peace and security. That would not duplicate the work of other United Nations bodies concerned with peacekeeping issues. Close collaboration with those bodies would be beneficial in view of the issue's multifaceted nature. Malaysia welcomed proposals that might improve such collaboration.

9. Strengthening the United Nations to enable it to fulfil its function effectively was a task that required a firm commitment from all Member States. Malaysia believed that the Special Committee also had a key role to play in the process, in the framework of its mandate. The Committee should continue to study measures aimed at revitalizing the role of the United Nations and strengthening the provisions of the Charter. On that point, Malaysia considered it important and timely to continue studying the working paper submitted by Cuba on strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness.

10. In relation to the revised working papers submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation, which recommended seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the use of force by States without prior authorization from the Security Council, except in the exercise of legitimate self-defence, Malaysia considered such a request to be appropriate in the light of recent world events.

11. Malaysia welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to speed up publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. It also welcomed the proposal made by Japan and the Republic of Korea to improve the effectiveness of the Special Committee's working methods, and it looked forward to that review being carried out.

12. **Mr. Chaabani** (Tunisia) stated that his delegation considered the issue of the imposition of sanctions in application of chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to be an important one, particularly with regard to their effects on third States; and it regretted that, despite its priority status, the Committee had made so little progress on an issue that had been on its agenda for over 10 years. It hoped that the Special Committee would devote sufficient time in forthcoming meetings to make a serious in-depth review of the issue. Meanwhile, it wished once again to stress a number of aspects: the use of sanctions should be a last resort, after all peaceful means of resolving disputes had been exhausted; and they should always be targeted on specific individuals or entities of the State, so as to have the least possible effect on the population of the State in question and on third States; sanctions should be clearly limited in time, and specific conditions should be established for lifting them; their scope and effectiveness needed to be assessed periodically to gauge more objectively their repercussions on the civil population of the State, and in particular on the most vulnerable groups. That evaluation should also measure the direct incidence of sanctions on the interests and economies of third countries, for which maximum provision should be made for consultation with international financial organizations and humanitarian assistance agencies. Tunisia considered the proposal by Egypt to establish a working group within the Sixth Committee to examine the question of assistance to third States to be pertinent in that regard, and it hoped that there would be a positive follow-up to the proposal. It welcomed the draft declaration submitted by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation. Tunisia believed that, pursuant to Article 50 of the Charter and in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, the Security Council should, as a matter of urgency, take responsibility for alleviating the negative effects of sanctions and the cost they imposed on third States. Tunisia had asked for a special fund to be established to provide the necessary assistance to developing third States whose economies were particularly affected by the implementation of sanctions.

13. Tunisia welcomed the recent publication of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions.

14. Tunisia considered that the Special Committee was the appropriate vehicle for reviewing ways to revitalize the Organization and improve its working methods, so that its various organs could fulfil their mandates as effectively as possible. It therefore welcomed the paper submitted by Cuba in previous sessions. The Special Committee should help consolidate democratization of the Organization, bearing in mind the principles and objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration. It was also important to continue reviewing the steps taken by the Organization to ensure revitalization of the General Assembly as the United Nations' key deliberating, legislative, and representative body, to enable it to effectively and efficiently fulfil the functions conferred on it by the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in terms of the maintenance of international peace and security. That review should adopt a global approach and bear in mind the concerns raised by the Secretary-General regarding the future of the Organization.

15. In relation to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Tunisia stressed their importance and welcomed the sustained effort made by the Secretary-General to speed up their publication. 16. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) stated that the events of recent months had increased the importance of the Special Committee's work, and conferred added value and unique significance to its debates on the maintenance of international peace and security. Sierra Leone gave top priority to implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by sanctions. It welcomed the steps taken in recent years by the Security Council to find ways to improve sanctions regimes and limit their adverse effects on third States, which would make a major contribution to the effectiveness of sanctions in some cases. To be effective, sanctions depended on cooperation from third States, but that was difficult to guarantee when cooperation itself caused major economic upheaval. Sierra Leone favoured an in-depth study of possible measures to alleviate the negative effects of sanctions on third States, bearing in mind the needs created as a result of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

17. Sierra Leone welcomed the proposal by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions. The paper raised a number of important issues that warranted further study. A balance needed to be struck

between sanctions regimes and humanitarian assistance; sanctions could not be indefinite, and they should respect human and humanitarian rights.

18. The representative of Sierra Leone referred to the Secretary-General's report (A/53/312) and suggested that the Special Committee could review the conclusions of the special expert group contained therein at the next session. Sierra Leone supported the review of the proposal by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions, and it supported the three fundamental principles contained therein, namely: 1. The implementation of sanctions and coercive measures should be exceptional, in the sense that they were to be used a last resort when all peaceful methods had been exhausted. 2. The implementation of sanctions should not impose financial or economic burdens on the targeted State other than those resulting from the direct application of the sanctions; 3. The State in question was entitled to complain and obtain fair compensation for sanctions imposed without legal foundation. Sierra Leone considered that a more in-depth review of the proposal was needed.

19. The paper submitted by Cuba, on strengthening the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness, restated the opinion that the General Assembly should play a constructive role in maintaining international peace and security, notwithstanding the Security Council's primary but not exclusive responsibility in that domain; and it asked for consideration to be given to how the respective mandates of the Security Council and General Assembly could be kept in balance. In relation to the Trusteeship Council, Sierra Leone believed it should be retained as a United Nations body. Lastly, the speaker praised the Secretary-General's efforts to reduce the delay in publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, which were an invaluable source of information.

20. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Sixth Committee), replying to the question raised by the delegation of Costa Rica on possible collaboration by academic institutions in preparation of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations organs, said that the Office of Legal Affairs had approached several academic institutions about the possibility of preparing a legal publication similar to the Repertory, which would guide Member States and external researchers on the application and interpretation of the Charter of the United Nations, and the viability of that publication being published trilingually in English, French and Spanish. The replies received from the universities of New York, Cambridge, Paris-Nanterre and Berlin had one thing in common: all of them refused the invitation to prepare the Repertory, for reasons that included lack of staff and resources, lack of an "internal" perspective, which was only available to the Secretariat, and the impossibility of maintaining the multilingual nature of the publication. The University of Paris-Nanterre also stressed that the intellectual neutrality of the Repertory as prepared by the Secretariat would inevitably be lost if its preparation was outsourced to an external academic institution. Nonetheless, some of the replies signalled an interest in future collaboration with the Secretariat via the establishment of research standards, various university programmes, assistance through scholarships, etc. No new measures had been taken on the subject, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the future of the Repertory.

21. **Mr. Díaz-Paniagua** (Costa Rica) asked the Secretary when the various studies would be posted on the Internet, in particular in Spanish, and enquired about the current status of the preparation of studies relating to priority articles, and which departments were responsible for preparing them.

22. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary) said that the information requested would be provided at a future meeting, and he added, in relation to the priority articles, that once it had been decided to continue preparing the Repertory, through the corresponding General Assembly decision, it would then be decided which articles were for priority study.

23. **Mr. Díaz-Paniagua** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation believed the Repertory should continue to be prepared and asked which articles were most delayed, and which departments were responsible for undertaking the corresponding studies.

24. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary) replied that two charts would be circulated. The first would indicate approximately when the whole study would be available on the Internet, and the second would specify the preparation status of each article. With regard to the departments responsible, the Secretary referred delegations to the Secretary-General's report.

25. **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco) regretted the scant progress made on implementing the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the introduction of sanctions, a matter that was now more urgent than ever. Sanctions were extreme measures that could only be used when all peaceful means of settling disputes had been exhausted; they had to be implemented with the utmost prudence, their duration and the conditions for lifting or suspending them needed to be established in advance, and their effectiveness needed to be periodically evaluated. Although, in principle, sanctions aimed to change the behaviour of recalcitrant States, in practice they also affected the civil population and caused economic destabilization either in the targeted State, or in third States. The Security Council was therefore responsible for evaluating their negative impact and assisting affected third States. In that regard, the paper submitted by the Russian Federation provided a sound basis for future discussions on the subject. Equally praiseworthy was the work done by the special expert group responsible for establishing a methodology for evaluating the adverse consequences caused to third States as a result of the implementation of preventive or coercive measures, and to study innovative and practical ways to provide international assistance to affected third States.

26. On the issue of peaceful settlement of disputes, the Moroccan delegation applauded the approval of resolution 57/26 on 19 December 2002, on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, which had been prepared on the basis of the working paper submitted jointly by the delegations of Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom.

27. On the future of the Trusteeship Council, Morocco considered it would be premature to take a definitive decision, although it acknowledged the need to review its role in the framework of the current reform of the Organization.

28. With regard to the Special Committee, Morocco advised considering all initiatives aimed at improving and streamlining its working methods, and it welcomed the proposals made by the delegations of Japan and Korea, which responded globally to the concerns and expectations expressed by several delegations.

29. With regard to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Morocco was grateful for the work done by the Secretary-General to speed up the publication of those documents, which were a valuable source of information and helped maintain the institutional memory of the United Nations. The Moroccan delegation reiterated its hope that those documents would continue to be published. In addition, the initiative to make them accessible over the Internet was positive and could alleviate the effects of the delay. The printed version should not be abandoned, however, since it was particularly valuable in countries where Internet access was very limited, as often was the case in African States.

30. **Mr. Haj Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic) stated that his country was extremely concerned at the policy of double standards and the prevalence of political criteria in implementation of the sanctions regime. Coercive measures of that type were only directed against vulnerable countries, while other States, such as Israel, violated Security Council resolutions, including 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), assassinated individuals and occupied other countries' territory by force, because they enjoyed protection from permanent members of the Security Council, to such an extent that they launched terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction. The Council ought to be governed by justice and equity, and should consider the short and long-term effects of sanctions, specifying, from the time of their introduction, the criteria and steps that the target country needed take for them to be lifted and their precise duration, in order to fulfil the provisions established in the Charter. Sanctions should also be lifted as soon as the threat motivating their implementation had disappeared and the target State had applied Council resolutions and acted in accordance with the law, so that it could be reintegrated into the international community.

31. It was also necessary to ensure that third countries were not harmed, because that would detract from the legitimacy of the sanctions and allow such countries to seek compensation. The paper submitted by the Russian Federation, entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation," was of the utmost importance and required in-depth study. The speaker also drew attention to the paper submitted by Cuba which argued that the process of restructuring United Nations organs should be democratic and effective, and not exclude the General Assembly. The proposal by the

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to strengthen the role of the Assembly in peace-keeping was also aimed in that direction.

32. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic did not see a need for Trusteeship Council to be abolished, since that would require far-reaching changes to be made to the Charter, and it did not impose any financial burden on the Organization. The International Court of Justice, for its part, should be given the financial and human resources it needed to fulfil its task. Lastly, Syria considered that the Sixth Committee was the competent body to review its agenda issues, and it supported the working methods of the Special Committee and saw no reason to shorten its session.

33. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) highlighted the work of the Committee on the Charter in relation to application of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, and congratulated that Committee and its Working Group for its report (document A/58/33). Nepal was extremely interested in strengthening the powers of the United Nations and making it more effective in achieving the aims and principles enshrined in the Charter. It would therefore contribute to the reform of the Organization to facilitate its activities in promoting peace and security, sustainable development and justice throughout the world.

34. Nepal reiterated its position expressed at the previous session of the Sixth Committee with respect to sanctions. The Charter of the United Nations established a collective security system and provided for the imposition of sanctions as an instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of conflicts. Article 50 of the Charter also foresaw that sanctions might cause problems to third States, and it called for measures to be taken to resolve them. Sanctions were an extreme measure to be implemented with moderation and only as a last resort. The Security Council should only impose sanctions when it was absolutely convinced that there was a threat to peace, a breakdown of peace, or an act of aggression by the State, and that sanctions were the best way to change that State's behaviour. They should never be used to punish innocent individuals, impoverish peoples or destabilize third States.

35. Nepal considered that sanctions should be periodically reviewed and lifted as soon as the reason for their imposition had disappeared. Moreover, they should only be renewed if the State in question continued to ignore its obligations and provided they remained relevant and effective. In that context, Nepal welcomed the recent decision by the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya.

36. The establishment of mechanisms and procedures for fulfilling the provisions of the Charter, would greatly help to dispel doubts that had arisen in recent years concerning the credibility of the United Nations sanctions regime and of the Organization itself, thereby making the sanctions regime more effective and mitigating the adverse effects on affected third States. The international community considered it essential to have a methodology in place to evaluate the adverse effects of sanctions, including "smart" sanctions, such as arms embargoes, asset freezes, and travel restrictions, so the Security Council should act accordingly. Nepal stressed the need to establish methods and standards for determining the direct and indirect damage caused by sanctions. An essential element in any sanctions regime should be the level of economic development and the nature of the relation between the third State and that targeted by the sanctions.

37. Nepal welcomed the fact that the Security Council had taken account of the processes of Interlaken, Bonn-Berlin and Stockholm in relation to mitigation of the adverse effects of sanctions especially for third States. In its report, the Special Committee had made recommendations on the methodology for providing assistance to third States affected by sanctions. The revised working paper submitted by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation provided a basis for the Committee's deliberations.

38. Nepal supported the creation of a voluntary assistance fund to compensate for the adverse effects of sanctions through development assistance and trade concessions. It believed that assistance of that type would encourage affected third States to uphold the sanctions regime. It was impossible to ignore the serious humanitarian consequences of sanctions for the most vulnerable groups of the civil population, such as women, children and the elderly, for which reason methods should be found to provide humanitarian assistance to innocent victims, paying special attention to those vulnerable groups. Except in cases where political, legal, and security structures had totally

collapsed, the consent of the recipient State should be obtained before providing assistance of that type, which should always be supervised by the United Nations.

39. Nepal considered that Article 24 of the Charter, which required the Security Council to file sanctions reports for consideration by the General Assembly, should be applied in a way that would enable the General Assembly to effectively carry out its task, and that the Economic and Social Council should also be able to evaluate the effects of sanctions on third States and take steps to alleviate them. It also stressed the need to make effective use of existing procedures for the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

40. Nepal was in favour of avoiding duplication of tasks so that United Nations resources could be used as effectively and efficiently as possible. The Special Committee should focus on its mandate and consider new forms of partnership making it possible to cooperate more closely with the main United Nations organs. It should also deal with the issues that had been assigned to it in previous sessions of the General Assembly before taking on new ones.

41. Reform of the United Nations system was imperative. The General Assembly needed to reclaim its status as the leading United Nations body and play an effective role in the fields of international peace and security, development, justice and the rule of law. The role of the Economic and Social Council also needed to be enhanced to enable it to carry out the activities envisaged in the Charter. The role and functioning of the Trusteeship Council should be reviewed in the light of the general reform of the Organization. With regard to the Security Council, its structure and working methods should have been reformed long ago, to increase the legitimacy and effectiveness of its work.

42. Referring to the unswerving faith that the peoples of the world had placed in the United Nations, Nepal believed that the Organization needed to be on a par with the functions attributed to it by the Charter in the domains of peace, progress and justice; and the Special Committee had a major role to play in that enterprise.

43. **Mr. Ashiru** (Nigeria) reiterated his country's view that sanctions were by nature an extreme measure to be applied with caution and only when all other peaceful means of dispute settlement had been exhausted. Sanctions should not be open-ended, but should be lifted as soon as the specific objectives being pursued had been achieved. Nigeria stressed the need to periodically review sanctions to mitigate their negative effects on the civil population, especially women and children, and on third States. A way needed to be found to assist the victims of such sanctions. Although Nigeria agreed that the imposition of selective sanctions on recalcitrant States could help protect the most vulnerable groups and third States, they clearly did not always produce the desired results, so it was essential to create mechanisms to provide assistance. Nigeria therefore supported the measures adopted to enable the United Nations system, international financial organizations and other international institutions, regional organizations and Member States to contribute directly and specifically to resolving the special economic problems of third States affected by the sanctions imposed by the Security Council. Nigeria favoured maintaining constructive dialogue with those States in ordinary and special meetings between third States and the donor community, with participation by the United Nations organs and other international bodies; and it believed consideration should be given to approving innovative and practical measures, such as trade exemptions and concessions, or special or preferential treatment to the affected third States, or their suppliers; preference for contractors from affected third States in investments in the targeted State; participation in the supply of goods for peacekeeping operations or in activities of rehabilitation, reconstruction and post-conflict development; and the holding of direct consultations by the Security Council with those States.

44. Nigeria recognized the importance of the freedom to choose peaceful ways to resolve disputes, and considered that the use of such mechanisms required the consent of the parties to the dispute. It therefore welcomed the approval of General Assembly resolution 57/26 of 19 November 2002, on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, which in paragraph 9 reminded States of the need to declare that they recognized the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. Nigeria accepted the jurisdiction of that court and urged States that had not yet done so to take that step. Moreover, in view of the enormous volume of work and responsibility entrusted to the court, Nigeria stressed the need to provide it with adequate financial resources.

45. Nigeria also urged States to continue making use of the different procedures and methods that existed for the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, such as fact-finding and goodwill missions, special envoys, observers, good offices, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. It also recognized the usefulness of regional and subregional peace initiatives, as shown by the work done by the Economic Community of West African States in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, and by the Southern African Development Community to promote development in the Great Lakes region.

46. With regard to proposals for the future of the Trusteeship Council, Nigeria believed it would be premature to abolish it or change its statute, since its existence did not have financial implications for the United Nations, and the assignment of new functions would require reform of the Charter. The attribution of new functions should take place in the framework of the general reform of the United Nations and the corresponding Charter amendment. Nonetheless, Nigeria recommended that a wide-ranging study be undertaken to explore the areas to which the resources of the Trusteeship Council could be channelled.

47. It was undeniable that the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council remained valuable sources of information on the application and interpretation of the Charter and the work of the United Nations. They were also indispensable for preserving the institutional memory of the Organization. Nigeria recognized the importance of those publications, especially at a time when the principles, standards, and values of the Charter needed to be restated; and it welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General to bring the publication of both documents up to date. It also praised the Secretary-General for his initiative to publish the studies of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs on the Internet, and it was grateful to scholarship-holders for their contribution to the Repertory in the framework of the current United Nations scholarship programme. Nigeria also expressed its gratitude to France, Greece and the United Kingdom for their contributions to the trust fund to update the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, and it urged the Secretary-General to continue collaborating with the academic community in preparing those publications, provided that that did not undermine their quality.

48. Lastly, Nigeria once again reiterated the need to simplify the working methods of the Committee on the Charter. The Committee ought to focus on fewer issues and avoid dissipating its resources on those that were already being considered by other United Nations bodies, such as the Security Council's informal working group on sanctions and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, proposals needed to be presented well in advance to allow for their detailed analysis, and a termination mechanism should be established to avoid lengthy debate on proposals year after year. Nigeria supported the idea of a certain proposals being examined once every three years instead of annually.

Agenda item 164: Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly.

49. **The Chairman** stated that Nigeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

United Nations A/C.6/58/SR.6

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Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)
later: Ms. Ramoutar (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

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Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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03-55854 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/58/37 and Corr.1, A/58/116 and Add.1 and A/C.6/58/L.10)

1. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, introduced the reports of those bodies (A/58/37 and A/C.6/58/L.10, respectively).

2. At the first meeting of the Working Group, he had invited delegations to approach him with concrete proposals regarding the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Several delegations had informed him that consultations on that question were continuing, including at the political level, in their capitals, and, in the light of General Assembly resolution 57/27, had expressed the wish that the item should remain on the agenda.

3. Informal consultations had demonstrated the persistence of substantial differences concerning article 18 on exclusions from the scope of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Agreement on that article would facilitate agreement on other issues, including article 2 bis on the relationship between the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the sectoral conventions. Delegations had also reiterated their diverse positions on the question of the scope of application of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. He urged delegations to pursue every avenue leading to a possible compromise on those issues and thanked those which had presented proposals directed towards such a compromise.

4. Despite fundamental differences, there was a general desire to preserve the achievements of both the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group. There was a clear need for delegations to remain engaged during and after the current session of the General Assembly and to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and political will. In order to maintain the momentum of that process, to which all delegations were committed, the Committee and other bodies so mandated by the General Assembly must continue to discharge in a constructive manner the legislative functions entrusted to them.

5. **Mr. Løvald** (Norway) said that international terrorism challenged the common security agenda; only two months previously, the United Nations had been the victim of a heinous attack that had left many wounded and several dead, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The international community owed it to the victims of all terrorist attacks to make every effort to prevent such atrocities.

6. International terrorism was a global threat that required a global response. The United Nations should take the lead in that effort, but regional organizations could also play a vital role, in particular by assisting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Combating terrorism might involve a broad range of political, diplomatic, economic, legal and military measures which must be fully consistent with international law, including the protection of human rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights should therefore follow closely the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which, through its dialogue with States, helped them to identify and overcome obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Norway had supported the counter-terrorism measures of the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Council of Europe.

7. He called for a broad, enhanced strategy involving the United Nations, political and religious leaders, the private sector and civil society. The conference, "Fighting Terrorism for Humanity", held in New York on 22 September 2003 on the initiative of the Prime Minister of Norway and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, had highlighted the need to understand the root causes of hatred and terrorism; the final report of that event would be submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and a follow-up conference was planned.

8. Failed States and repressive regimes often bred hate, extremism and terror, but there appeared to be little, if any, connection between poverty and terrorism; many terrorists were from middle or upper class families. Terrorism could best be combated by guaranteeing the rule of law and respect for human rights and providing outlets not only for human

ambition, hopes and beliefs, but also for anger and grief. Desires, aims and anger were often expressed in religious terms, extremists perverted religious language to justify atrocities and religious leaders had too often failed to raise their voices against intolerance and extremism. Moreover, countless children were being raised in an atmosphere of hatred, intolerance and failure to respect human rights; education in tolerance and mutual respect should be part of the counter-terrorism campaign.

9. States should not allow their differences on the definition of terrorism to impede work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism; in particular, the risk of terrorist groups gaining access to weapons of mass destruction could not be overstated.

10. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the recent death of distinguished United Nations officials was a reminder that anyone could become a victim of a criminal terrorist act. The international community must continue its efforts to develop a multilateral, comprehensive system of legal instruments in a global strategy against terrorism so that those who committed, planned or financed terrorist acts could be brought to justice; such a strategy must be implemented with full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

11. At its May 2003 summit in Cusco, Peru, the Rio Group had expressed its commitment to strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the related problems of illegal narcotics, money-laundering and illegal weapons trafficking and to increasing the flow of information in order to prevent terrorist acts and the financing thereof. The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism had recently entered into force and the Organization of American States (OAS) had organized a meeting in Washington the previous week as follow-up to the Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations, held in New York in March 2003.

12. Each country had a responsibility in the fight against terrorism; however, the scope and legitimacy of the United Nations gave it the leading role in protecting humanity from that threat. The Rio Group was concerned at the lack of political will to make substantive progress on the two draft counter-terrorism conventions and at the attempt to establish an unnecessary link between them; the risk of terrorists obtaining nuclear weapons was so great that no opportunity to reach agreement on that issue should be lost. He therefore welcomed the Mexican proposal (A/C.6/56/WG.1/CRP.9) regarding a new paragraph under article 4 of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which offered a creative, constructive way out of the current impasse. He also urged the coordinators to organize consultations between the main session and the resumed session of the General Assembly in order to resolve the few remaining issues regarding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the death of Sergio Vieira de Mello and the other victims of terrorism was a call to action in that regard.

13. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) said that counter-terrorism had become an important foreign policy issue for his Government, which was actively involved in efforts to combat that problem at the national and international levels. Venezuela had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and had submitted reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities. His Government was also actively involved in regional counter-terrorism efforts and had recently incorporated the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism into its national legislation. The media had misrepresented Venezuela's commitment to counter-terrorism, but his Government's actions spoke for themselves.

14. National, subregional and regional action would be incomplete without a similar effort at the international level. Recent events had shown that States could not combat terrorist attacks unless they had the political will to adopt, as quickly as possible, the draft conventions which would establish a legal basis for international cooperation. It was also essential to eliminate the causes of terrorism, namely poverty and marginalization. Lastly, he paid a tribute to the memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello and the other victims of terrorism.

15. **Mr. Al-Marzooqi** (United Arab Emirates) said that, despite the international counter-terrorism conventions and agreements of the past decade, recent years had seen an escalation in the number and seriousness of such crimes. Institutionalized terrorism struck at innocent victims of all races and ethnic groups, as seen by the recent attacks on United Nations staff who were in Baghdad for the sole purpose of helping the Iraqi people return to a normal life.

16. Since the events of 11 September 2001, terrorists had struck in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the occupied territories. Regardless of the culture or religion of the persons responsible, terrorism was based on xenophobia, fundamentalism and rejection of multilateralism and of the right to self-determination. He therefore urged the international community to combat that problem with transparency and to avoid the use of double standards.

17. An international conference should be organized to address the need for a clear definition of terrorism, strengthen the relevant legislation and ensure that counter-terrorism measures were not applied selectively and that a distinction was made between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination, a right embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in international conventions and protocols.

18. Respect for the freedom of peoples was embodied in Shariah law. His Government had consistently condemned terrorism in international and regional forums and had adopted legislation and political mechanisms to combat terrorism, including implementation of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. It had taken steps to prevent the financing of terrorism and to criminalize acts of terrorism and money-laundering; worked with its neighbours and other relevant States and international organizations to combat cross-border crime; and ratified international counter-terrorism instruments, including the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, the Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

19. The United Arab Emirates condemned the organized State terrorism of the Government of Israel against the Palestinian and Arab peoples in occupied Palestine, Syria and Lebanon and rejected Israel's acts and allegations, which violated the Charter and international conventions. Effective measures should be taken immediately in order to halt Israel's attacks on the Palestinian people and its neighbours; only if it withdrew from the occupied territories and demonstrated respect for international law could a lasting solution to the crisis in the Middle East be found.

20. **Mr. Rodríguez Parilla** (Cuba) said that his Government was committed to curbing international terrorism and utterly rejected terrorist acts of all kinds, no matter where they were committed, by whom, or whatever the reason for them was. His country had never allowed its territory to be used for planning, financing or carrying out such acts. The struggle against terrorism should not, however, be used as a pretext for meddling in the internal affairs of other States, or for aggression. Terrorism had to be fought by the international community as a whole and since that entailed close cooperation and compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law and international humanitarian law, it was for the General Assembly to lead the battle.

21. It was essential to adopt a general convention on international terrorism that would fill the gaps in existing United Nations instruments on the subject. A general convention should contain a precise definition covering all forms, types and elements of the crime of terrorism and should provide for the possibility of holding natural and legal persons responsible for it. Acts of a State's armed forces which were contrary to international humanitarian law should not be excluded from the ambit of the convention, since such an omission might be seen as justification for some States to take action to destabilize others.

22. While the third world countries were right in asking that a general convention should draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for independence and the right to self-determination, the right to self-defence should not be used as an excuse to justify acts of State terrorism or interference in the internal affairs of other States. No mischievous distinction masking the seriousness or criminal nature of such acts should be made.

23. The practice engaged in by some States of unilaterally issuing lists of countries which allegedly supported international terrorism was inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and was motivated purely by political considerations. The inclusion of Cuba in the annual list of sponsors of international terrorism issued by the United States of America was absurd and had been prompted by domestic policy and devious electoral motives.

24. Since 1959, the Cuban people had been the victim of numerous terror attacks which had killed and injured thousands and caused enormous economic damage. It was well known that those attacks had been organized, financed and launched from the territory of the United States, where various terrorist organizations were allowed to operate against Cuba with total impunity. Furthermore, a federal court in Miami had unjustly punished three Cuban citizens after they had been held incommunicado and subjected to inhuman treatment for 17 months. They were completely innocent of the crimes with which they had been charged and had merely been trying to save the lives of Cuban and United States citizens by gathering information about the terrorist organizations he had just mentioned. The United States violation of emigration agreements, anti-Cuban radio broadcasts from its territory and the failure of its venal courts to sentence the hijackers of Cuban ships and aircraft had been the direct cause of the terrorist acts committed in Cuba in March and April 2003. For that reason, his Government had had no alternative but to apply Cuban law with the utmost rigour in order to halt a wave of hijackings which the European Union had termed acts against the security of Cuba. The recent severe sentences passed on one hijacker by a United States court and the return to Cuba of a further six were to be welcomed, since cooperation coupled with respect for and implementation of legal instruments was the only path holding any promise. Nevertheless, the United States Government had employed spurious arguments to reject Cuba's repeated proposals concerning a bilateral programme to combat terrorism.

25. His Government had taken legal and administrative steps to prevent, detect and punish acts of terrorism and other associated international crimes. It had ratified or acceded to all the international conventions on terrorism. It had passed a Law on Acts of Terrorism which defined and punished acts of terrorism that were committed via the information media. The Bank of Cuba had issued several instructions and resolutions to forestall money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The customs authorities and the Ministry of the Interior had taken steps to strengthen border controls in order to prevent terrorists entering the national territory.

26. His Government had complied fully with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and had provided the Counter-Terrorism Committee with all the requisite reports. It therefore hoped that that Committee would take definite steps to fight terrorism and to act on the voluminous evidence his country had supplied regarding the organization and financing of terrorist acts against Cuba from the United States. His Government had further entered into bilateral counter-terrorism agreements with various other countries. The international community should implement measures to combat terrorism without applying double standards.

27. **Mr. Ong** (Singapore) said that the events of 11 September 2001 had opened the world's eyes to new and previously unthinkable dimensions of terrorism and had created an awareness that terrorism knew no boundaries and that every country was vulnerable to it. The international community should not allow horrific acts of terrorism to paralyse it with fear; on the contrary, it should work to eradicate that scourge.

28. South-east Asia had been forced to come to terms with the ever-present threat of terrorism by a spate of bombings and the uncovering of a plot for further terrorist attacks, which had shown that terrorists were expanding their theatre of operations all over the world. Singapore had been targeted by the Jemaah Islamiyah group, which had links with Al-Qaida. His Government had therefore joined other countries in listing the Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) in the belief that practical cooperation between countries was crucial if tangible progress was to be made with regard to counter-terrorism. For that reason, his country's intelligence agencies had been actively collaborating with their regional and foreign counterparts. On the domestic front, strict security had been enforced at all passenger and cargo entry points and patrols of the coastline had been stepped up. His country was participating in the United States Container Security Initiative and had established an air marshal unit. It had also increased defence measures at key installations and tightened controls on the movement, import and

export of strategic goods and technology in order to ensure that weapons did not fall into the hands of terrorists. Capabilities for dealing with biochemical terrorism were also being enhanced.

29. Since a multilateral approach was vital in dealing with terrorism, his Government had acceded to and ratified the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It also supported global efforts to combat money-laundering and had long been an active member of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

30. Addressing the global threat of terrorism called for a combination of vigilance and preventive measures, as well as a comprehensive approach by the whole world community. The tactics adopted by violent terrorists should not be tolerated, and efforts should be made to ensure the participation of moderate members of all races and religions in the fight against terrorism perpetrated by extremists. The key to combating terrorism in the long term was to promote understanding and tolerance between civilizations, reduce poverty and inequality and eradicate oppression.

31. His country supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. As progress on articles 2 bis and 18 of the draft comprehensive convention was vital, given the escalation of international terrorism over the past year, Member States should approach the issue in a greater spirit of compromise. The international community could not afford to remain idle in the face of the growing evil of terrorism.

32. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that terrorism was abhorrent wherever and by whoever it was committed. It was a worldwide phenomenon calling for a global, multifaceted, non-selective response, an attempt to identify its root causes and a concerted effort by the international community to address them. A unilateral, one-dimensional approach might neutralize some threats and bring psychological comfort, but it did not offer a serious answer to terrorism. Its perpetrators had to be brought to justice and terrorism itself had to be contained through a law-based counter-terrorism strategy endorsed by all members of the international community. The United Nations undoubtedly provided the best forum for concerted action and could ensure universal legitimacy for a long-term struggle against terrorism in conformity with its Charter and the norms and principles of international law and the relevant international instruments.

33. It was disappointing that the outstanding issues had not been resolved in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/58/37) or in that of the Working Group (A/C.6/58/L.10). A comprehensive approach required a definition of terrorism, and failure to agree on such a definition would call in question the utility of the exercise. The proposal submitted by the member States of the OIC in annex IV to A/57/37 drew an essential distinction between terrorism and the struggle of peoples fighting foreign domination and occupation. Similarly, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism was a useful example of a comprehensive, non-discriminatory, non-selective move against terrorism. The Committee should therefore carefully examine the relationship between the proposed comprehensive convention and existing conventions on the same subject and States should cooperate proactively in resolving the outstanding issues. Addressing the issue of international terrorism also required consideration of the threat of nuclear terrorism. While the most effective way of warding off such a threat clearly lay in the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the adoption of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be a step in the right direction.

34. The States members of OIC were determined to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including State terrorism, and to participate in multilateral global efforts to eradicate it. OIC likewise supported the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism, endorsed the Tunisian initiative concerning an international counter-terrorism code of conduct pending the conclusion of a comprehensive convention and appealed to all States Members of the United Nations to back that initiative.

35. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland) said that his Government condemned all forms of terrorism and considered that persons responsible for terrorist acts had to be prosecuted, sentenced or extradited. The 12

United Nations sectoral conventions on terrorism provided a legal framework for international cooperation in that field. Since 23 September 2003, his country had acceded to all those conventions, the two most recent of which evidenced the important role played by the General Assembly as the legislative organ of the United Nations.

36. The adoption of a comprehensive convention on terrorism would give the international community another effective instrument for combating that scourge and would complement the existing conventions, in that it would apply to specific terrorist acts not covered by them. It was therefore regrettable that no consensus had been reached on the matter thus far. His Government would participate actively in drafting a comprehensive convention in order to establish a precise definition of a terrorist act as a punishable crime and to lay down provisions guaranteeing efficient international legal cooperation. It would also endeavour to ensure that the convention balanced security considerations against aspects affecting freedom, since anti-terrorist measures adopted by national authorities could constitute a threat to the international community if they failed to respect the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law.

37. His Government would support the compromise on article 18 in the coordinator's text, provided that it was drafted in such a way as not to create a legal vacuum by excluding certain acts from the convention's scope. Since a convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be an important contribution to fighting one of the most deadly forms of terrorism, it was regrettable that no compromise had been found on the outstanding issues. His Government was therefore in favour of continuing negotiations on both conventions.

38. **Mr. Kalavenkata Rao** (India) said that measures to eliminate international terrorism had acquired special significance in recent years owing to recognition of the need for closer international cooperation in that sphere. His country had been in the forefront of combating terrorism for almost two decades. Its people had paid a heavy price for their struggle to vanquish terrorism that was challenging the established values of society, democracy and the law.

39. As the war on terrorism had begun to target its perpetrators' safe havens, their network had fanned out across the world with greater vigour and intensity. Indiscriminate terrorist attacks had shattered the peace and had even killed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, and several of his colleagues who had been working to assist the people of Iraq and to reconstruct and restore the sovereignty of that country.

40. Terrorism was a common enemy of all peoples, beliefs and religions and inimical to peace and democracy. It undermined the very foundations of free and open societies. It constituted a global threat and hence there could be no compromise in the war against it. Yet some States still flouted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 49/60) by providing moral, material, financial and logistical support and arms to terrorists, whereas they should abide by the Declaration and the standards it set.

41. Although the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1456 (2003) had contributed to the promotion and enhancement of national legal frameworks to combat terrorism, those efforts needed to be supplemented by international standard-setting processes and, for that reason, the successful conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be a significant contribution towards stamping out terrorism. The conflicting views on article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention could be reconciled in a spirit of mutual accommodation.

42. Although the global coalition against terrorism had worked well in some cases, it had failed to produce the desired results in others, because some of its members were still sponsoring cross-border terrorism, a case in point being that referred to in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/58/116). The Counter-Terrorism Committee should develop measures to ensure that Member States complied with their obligations under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1456 (2003). Credible multilateral instruments had to be developed, identifying States which contravened those resolutions. Multilateral mechanisms should be created to detect and block international financial flows to terrorists and terrorist organizations. A better international system of information exchange and intelligence-sharing needed to be devised in order to prevent terrorists evading capture simply by crossing national borders. Lastly, no

State should be allowed to profess partnership with the global coalition against terror while continuing to aid, abet and sponsor terrorism: condoning such double standards would merely mean increasing terrorism.

43. India attached the highest priority to the early conclusion of negotiations and the adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee should continue its work within the framework of the Working Group.

44. **Mr. Fazei** (Bahrain) said that international terrorism was a very grave problem and an obstacle to the well-being of mankind. Bahrain associated itself with all regional and international efforts to combat that scourge, which should never be linked to a particular culture, race or religion. Efforts must be made to understand its root causes and a distinction must be made between international terrorism and the struggle of peoples to free themselves from foreign occupation. International terrorism was not only a very dangerous phenomenon, but also had a severe impact on economic development.

45. Bahrain had become a party to a number of international and regional instruments to combat terrorism, and would become a party to the remaining international conventions as soon as the necessary domestic legal and constitutional measures had been taken. His country had also established a working group to coordinate measures to help Bahrain implement the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Bahrain had taken a number of measures to suppress the financing of terrorism, and had passed laws to combat money-laundering. Bahraini national associations were subjected to internal banking audits, especially when they received charitable contributions. There were also a number of provisions in the Criminal Code relating to crimes which were a threat to public order and might be terrorism-related. Bahrain would honour its commitments under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and was in the process of preparing its third report for the Counter-Terrorism Committee. All sections of the international community must be united to allow all necessary efforts to be made to combat terrorism on the basis of principles flowing from Shariah law and of the goals articulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

46. **Ms. Berri** (Lebanon) said that terrorism represented the most serious threat to international peace and security and the firm resolve of the international community to eradicate it permanently would depend on cooperation among States. The fact that the concept of terrorism had been abused by some States to describe their enemies had made the fight against terrorism selective and arbitrary, serving national interests and the aims of particular States, rather than being global in scope. Efforts to combat terrorism would remain ineffective unless they were based on a general consensus regarding a clear, universal, comprehensive, United Nations-promulgated definition of terrorism. An international conference on international terrorism should be held under the auspices of the United Nations in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 42/159 and 44/29 in order to prevent the application of double standards. The definition of terrorism should condemn State terrorism, which included foreign military occupation and/or the forced annexation of land or property, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as the worst form of terrorism. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51, any definition had to draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for their right to self-determination and independence, which was embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in many General Assembly resolutions.

47. Lebanon reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, and its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in the suppression of international terrorism in accordance with the norms of international law and the established principles of national sovereignty. It was taking steps at the international, regional and national levels to fulfil its commitment to combat terrorism.

48. At the international level, Lebanon had signed and acceded to 10 of the 12 international legal instruments adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and was currently in the process of acceding to the remaining two, namely the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. As a member of Interpol, Lebanon furnished information concerning persons suspected of providing support for or financing terrorist acts. It had created a database for the collection of information on terrorist entities and had exchanged information with Interpol offices in

Member States so as to prevent those entities from being financed or offered facilities.

49. At the regional level, Lebanon had ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, and had committed itself to cooperate with the European Union in combating terrorism. It had also signed a number of bilateral agreements, such as extradition treaties and agreements on mutual legal assistance, as a way of concerting efforts to combat terrorism.

50. At the national level, Lebanon had incorporated all the provisions and articles of the international conventions and protocols against terrorism to which it was a party in its national legislation and Penal Code. Laws and regulations expressly prevented the financing of terrorist activities. Under a law of 2001 a special board inquired into transactions suspected of constituting money-laundering, racketeering or other terrorist crimes. It had sought information from banks concerning accounts held by persons and entities included in Security Council lists with a view to freezing or confiscating them. Lebanon did not provide a safe haven for those who financed, directed, supported or committed acts of terrorism, especially those stipulated in Security Council resolution 1333 (2000), and did not permit them to enter its territory. Lebanon had submitted four reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

51. It was difficult for any human society to achieve a climate of security without seeking political, economic and social justice, and that was why Lebanon believed that approaches which were purely security-oriented or partial, phased solutions could not alone succeed in combating and eliminating terrorism. Lebanon was ready to cooperate with other States in formulating a comprehensive solution which struck at the root cause of terrorism, which now threatened the very essence of human civilization.

52. **Mr. Ayoob** (Afghanistan) said that the Afghan people had suffered greatly under the Taliban regime, which was known to have harboured international terrorist organizations. The terrorists had killed thousands of innocent Afghans, burned cities and villages, destroyed the economic infrastructure, and implemented a policy of ethnic cleansing. Events had shown that no nation could be immune from the threat of terrorism, and the international community must therefore assume a strong and sincere commitment to fight that threat to the end. The war on terrorism had to be fought on all fronts, including criminal activities such as arms smuggling, drug trafficking and money-laundering that financed terrorist organizations.

53. With the help of the United States and other friends in the international community, his Government was doing its best to establish stability in the country, implement a process of reconstruction, adopt a new constitution and pave the way for a general election. However, extremist and terrorist elements were sparing no efforts in challenging that process, because in the success of stability and reconstruction they saw their final defeat. Unfortunately, those dark and destructive forces continued find to support outside Afghanistan from extremists, fanatics and terrorist elements. The peace-loving people of Afghanistan and its partners in the war against terrorism were determined to overcome those challenges and resolved to prevent the country from falling back into anarchy under the rule of terrorists. The international community must not falter in helping Afghanistan to defeat the terrorists and their ideologies in Afghanistan itself and the region as a whole. It had to be made clear that there was zero tolerance of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In Afghanistan's experience there was a direct connection between narcotics and terrorism, and it was in Afghanistan's absolute national interest to fight both. Afghanistan was fully committed to being a resilient partner for the international community in the fight against terrorism and drugs.

54. Afghanistan was a party to all 12 internationally binding conventions and protocols on combating terrorism, and had signed, acceded to or ratified all of them. It was important for all countries to coordinate measures to ensure effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and Afghanistan was committed to implementing its obligations in that regard to the full. The United Nations had a major role to play in monitoring implementation of that resolution through the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

55. Afghanistan welcomed the role played by the Sixth Committee in mobilizing international action against the threat of international terrorism, and would continue to work within the United Nations and elsewhere not just to defeat that scourge but also to prevent it from reappearing. Strong and sincere cooperation between Governments at regional level was critically important in that regard. Afghanistan appreciated and fully supported the hard work of the

Ad Hoc Committee in negotiating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism whose adoption would send a strong message that the international community was united and resolute in its efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. What was needed was the strongest possible legal regime against terrorism.

56. **Ms. Katungye** (Uganda) said that given the increasing porosity of inter-State borders and the relative ease with which terrorists were likely to acquire nuclear materials or weapons, the international community must summon up the political will to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Uganda had been horrified by the bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, and paid tribute to those who had died. Such cowardly and wanton attacks should increase the resolve of the international community to eradicate terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism attacked the very foundation of law, order, human rights and the sanctity of life. It had therefore been encouraging to note the overwhelming response by Member States to the Counter-Terrorism Committee; only 16 Member States had still to submit a report to it on the steps they had taken to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

57. Uganda had endeavoured to comply with the provisions of that resolution by, among other things, curbing the flow of arms and funds to terrorist cells with links to terrorists operating in certain parts of the country. Uganda was also implementing measures adopted under the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Since 1988 the Ugandan people had suffered at the hands of terrorists such as the self-styled Lord's Resistance Army and Allied Democratic Forces, whose links to Al-Qaida had been proved beyond reasonable doubt by Uganda's security agencies. Terrorists must never be given safe haven and Uganda was increasing its capacity to deny it. Her country had ratified five of the major anti-terrorism conventions, signed five others and had Cabinet approval for ratifying the remainder. Ugandan national policy strongly condemned terrorism in whatever guise it appeared, whether it was "justified" as part of the fight for freedom or as the result of poverty. There could be no justification whatsoever for the use of indiscriminate force against civilians and infrastructure, but Uganda considered it prudent to identify those causes that lent themselves easily to abuse by the perpetrators and financiers of terrorism. It had found that poorer people were being drawn into joining terrorist acts with promises of money. Uganda therefore agreed with the view that in order to eradicate terrorism the international community needed to address its root causes, which included ignorance, religious fanaticism and intolerance, corruption, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, the proliferation of small arms, human trafficking and money-laundering.

58. Uganda had adopted legislation to combat terrorism and bring terrorists to justice. There was a Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force comprising key institutions and agencies and an Anti-Money-Laundering Committee which worked with financial institutions at the local, regional and international levels. Uganda froze funds, financial assets and economic resources identified as being connected to terrorist activities, and convicted all perpetrators found guilty of terrorist acts. Although there was no specific law against money-laundering, the country's central bank had issued anti-money-laundering guidelines to all financial institutions, which were required to report suspicious activities to it for further investigation. Although the guidelines were not enforceable in law, the central bank could apply broad supervisory powers and sanctions against any institution found to have been flouting them. The Ugandan police force was conducting nationwide campaigns to inform the general public about the global threat of terrorism. Measures were being taken to curb or prevent counterfeiting, fraud or the fraudulent use of identity and travel documents. Entry points into the country were staffed by trained policemen, immigration personnel and also the intelligence and security services.

59. Uganda supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response by the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

60. *Ms. Ramoutar (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

61. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated

countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and, in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the European Union condemned all acts of terrorism and remained convinced that terrorism was never justifiable, irrespective of its motives and objectives, forms and manifestations. The European Union was strongly committed to defeating the threat of terrorism, having recourse to all pertinent means. At the same time, the European Union believed that the fight against terrorism should go hand in hand with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and, where applicable, international humanitarian law. The European Union reaffirmed its support for the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism everywhere. The 12 international United Nations conventions and protocols relating to various forms of international terrorism remained fundamental tools in the international community's effort to root out the phenomenon. The European Union attached high priority to universal participation in and full implementation of all those legal instruments, and urged States which had not yet done so to become parties to them.

62. The Security Council, in its resolution 1373 (2001), had noted with concern the close connection between international terrorism and, among other things, transnational organized crime, illicit drugs and money-laundering. In that respect, the European Union supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as its activities under the Global Programme against Terrorism. In the declaration annexed to its resolution 1456 (2003), the Security Council had stressed the need for closer cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional and subregional organizations, and in that regard, the European Union reiterated its strong support for that Committee and its work. The European Union worked in close coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations and forums by supporting and participating in many of their counter-terrorism activities. A legal framework applicable in all member States of the European Union had ensured proper and timely implementation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions, and its effectiveness had been amplified by the fact that all acceding countries had voluntarily aligned themselves with it. A wide range of legal instruments had been adopted and was under constant review with the aim of strengthening the restrictive measures imposed by the United Nations, notably to combat the financing of terrorism. With the aim of providing substantive and effective support to third countries in implementing their commitments under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), the European Union had adopted a strategy directed at offering relevant technical assistance to those countries. The European Union would continue to work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, particularly with a view to establishing how such assistance could be targeted most effectively to facilitate implementation of the relevant resolutions.

63. The events of 11 September 2001 had prompted the United Nations to take unprecedented action, and its firm endeavour to eradicate terrorism continued unabated. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the debate which was aimed at overcoming the difficulties encountered in the efforts to draw up a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The European Union believed that negotiations on the provisions of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism on which agreement had been reached should not be re-opened, and it reaffirmed its readiness to contribute to reaching a consensus on the outstanding issues. As for the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, he recalled that at the meeting of the European Council in June 2003, the European Union had reaffirmed its full awareness that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery constituted an actual and serious threat to international peace and security. That being so, and given the risk posed by the fact that terrorist groups might gain possession of such weapons, the European Union strongly reaffirmed that the adoption of the draft international convention was an urgent necessity. Lastly, the European Union reiterated that it was ready to discuss the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations only after agreement had been reached on the text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and on the understanding that such a conference could contribute to strengthening international cooperation against terrorism.

64. **Mr. Mustafa** (Sudan) reaffirmed his delegation's condemnation of international terrorism, which, whatever its form, could not be defended on political or ideological grounds and was incompatible with the letter and spirit of international law. It jeopardized innocent lives and threatened social and economic development. International terrorism, which could be found among all cultures and in all parts of the world, was best combated through international conventions and the promotion of understanding among religions and peoples. Any attempt to equate Islam with terrorism would have repercussions everywhere.

65. His delegation reaffirmed the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the legality of resistance to foreign oppression or occupation and the condemnation of State-sponsored terrorism such as that in which Israel engaged. In that context, he stressed the need for an agreed international definition of terrorism and supported the calls for a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to elaborate a global convention against terrorism.

66. The Sudan's commitment to the fight against terrorism was evidenced by its ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, its signing of the International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its promulgation in 2002 of a statute to combat terrorism. The Sudanese Government had also cooperated fully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and had signed the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the Arab League Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism.

67. **Mr. Mwandembwa** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was discouraging to note that the number of acts of terror had increased rather than diminished over the past year, an egregious example being the attack on United Nations workers in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. It was therefore regrettable that the political will to remove the few remaining differences over the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism seemed to be lacking. Since the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee had both repeatedly failed to make any progress, the Sixth Committee should urgently explore other avenues. To abandon work on the two draft conventions would represent a serious blow to efforts to combat terrorism. The convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism should remain on the agenda.

68. His Government remained steadfastly committed to the war against terrorism, five years after the tragic bombing of the United States Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam. The Prevention of Terrorism Act had been passed in 2002 and his country had ratified two important regional conventions: the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa (Pelindaba Treaty). The latter, if strictly implemented, would bar terrorists from access to nuclear weapons and other radioactive devices throughout Africa. His country had also ratified 7 of the 12 major international instruments against terrorism and would shortly ratify the remaining 5.

69. Lastly, his delegation expressed concern about States which advised their citizens not to travel to his country because of possible terrorist attacks. Such advice had a highly adverse effect on his country. Although his delegation understood the rationale behind such advice, it requested such countries to have the courtesy to consult the Government beforehand, or at least provide it with prior information; that would, in addition, increase the possibility of averting attacks and arresting the would-be perpetrators. In that context, his delegation pledged continued cooperation with other countries to defeat terrorism.

70. **Ms. Tuğral** (Turkey) said her delegation aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union, and expressed strong condemnation of the suicide bombing directed two days earlier against the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, which had wounded two Iraqi policemen and one member of the Embassy staff. Terrorism posed a severe challenge to democracy, civil society and the rule of law. It undermined human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life, and the international community should adopt a coordinated response to it. In that context, her delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the global fight against terrorism and specifically to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Her Government had submitted three timely reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

71. It was crucial that more States should become parties to the existing international conventions against terrorism and, in that context, she commended the invaluable work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, which was entrusted with the task of finalizing the two draft conventions against terrorism. With regard to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, her delegation would favour a broad scope of application. Moreover, due consideration should be given to the possibility of building on existing instruments to find more efficient ways of combating terrorism. A comprehensive and effective instrument must be concluded without delay. There should be no safe haven for terrorists in any country, regardless of their motives or the type of crime committed.

72. **Mr. Zaki** (Pakistan) said that modern manifestations of terrorism had proved more deadly than their predecessors; the ability of terrorists to threaten society had heightened feelings of insecurity. Pakistan itself had been a victim of terrorism but had remained undeterred. It had enhanced security along its borders and further strengthened its legal framework. Hundreds of Al-Qaida terrorists had been captured in recent years. Pakistan had signed or ratified 11 out of the 12 international anti-terrorism conventions, as well the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism and the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It had submitted three reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which, together with a number of other United Nations bodies, including the Sixth Committee, played an important role in the fight against terrorism. The Secretary-General's report (A/58/116) outlined measures taken by various States, and, in that context, he regretted that the representative of India had misquoted paragraph 22 of the report, which did not "conclude" but only "assumed" that the grenades in question had been made in Pakistan.

73. It was regrettable that there was no consensus on articles 18 and 2 bis of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism or article 4 of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The United Nations should adopt the following lines of action. First, it should reach a consensus on a legal definition of terrorism, including State terrorism, which would maintain a distinction between the right of peoples to self-determination and acts of terrorism. Second, given the inalienable right of peoples freely to determine their own destiny, it should help to resolve political disputes and situations in which Muslim people were — as in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir — being suppressed. Third, the fight against terrorism should not be misused by States to justify prolongation of their domination of foreign lands or curtailment of freedom of speech. Fourth, efforts should be made to study the root causes of terrorism: political and social justice were indispensable if terrorism was to be effectively combated, as stated in a number of General Assembly resolutions, beginning with resolution 3034 (XXVII). The fight against terrorism should not lead to the violation of human rights. Moreover, efforts should be redoubled to provide technical assistance to States needing capacity-building to allow them to fight terrorism effectively.

74. Terrorism had no faith. No attempt should be made, therefore, to link terrorism with any particular religion. Instead, greater efforts should be made to foster inter-cultural understanding and cooperation. An international consensus on terrorism should be forged, since only thus could harmony and understanding be achieved. Issues of a systemic nature which provided breeding grounds and ready supporters for extremist causes — and ultimately terrorism — could no longer be ignored. Nor should other pressing problems, such as poverty, HIV/AIDS or social and economic justice, be overlooked.

75. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group and said that, despite the extensive discussion of the two draft conventions against terrorism over the past few years, the international community continued to fall victim to deplorable terrorist attacks, including that suffered by the United Nations office in Baghdad two months earlier. It was therefore essential that those who wished for a peaceful solution to conflict should overcome their differences for the common good. His delegation categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms, although it agreed with the Secretary-General's view that, in combating terrorism, people's dignity and fundamental freedoms should not be compromised.

76. The United Nations had an essential role to play in combating terrorism. His delegation would therefore continue to support any initiative aimed at preventing, combating or eliminating an abominable phenomenon

which was usually aimed at innocent civilian victims. It would, in particular, support any effort to resolve the remaining disagreements over some aspects of the draft conventions against terrorism.

77. In 2003, article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had been incorporated into Ecuadorian law. Ecuador had also ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and had proceeded with programmes to implement existing international instruments. It supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) to which end it had developed a broad strategy involving the adoption of legislative, administrative, policing and other measures, and had taken the necessary steps in relation to the consolidated list prepared by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). It also participated in regional efforts undertaken by the Organization of American States and the Andean Community.

78. The influence of factors such as poverty and intolerance should not be overlooked, since they had unfortunately been used as pretexts by those for whom violence and terror were a way of life. The international community should therefore embark on a global strategy to promote development, improve living conditions for the world's poorest people and cultivate dialogue in order to improve respect for human rights.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.6/58/SR.7

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Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)

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Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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03-56553 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/58/37 and Corr.1, A/58/116 and Add.1 and A/C.6/58/L.10)

1. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) said that international terrorism was contemptible, because it led to the loss of innocent human lives, sadly including those of United Nations workers in Baghdad and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello. Terrorism, which destroyed infrastructure and seriously jeopardized international peace and security, could only be combated effectively when an international convention on measures to eliminate it had been adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

2. His Government had participated actively in the drafting of the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and would soon ratify and implement its provisions. It strongly supported the United Nations efforts to fight international terrorism. Since the eradication of that scourge was a matter of the utmost urgency, it was to be hoped that divergences of views on how best to do so would be bridged so as to reach consensus and that an international convention on measures to eliminate international terrorism would be adopted at the current session.

3. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that while the events of 11 September 2001 had lent momentum to endeavours to prevent and combat international terrorism and had led to the formation of a broadly based international coalition for that purpose, a wave of terrorist attacks, including the cruel and cynical bombing of the United Nations office in Baghdad, had emphasized the need for further radical measures to extirpate terrorism, including the establishment of an appropriate international legal mechanism to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts.

4. States Members of the United Nations should demonstrate the political will required in order to reach a compromise on the outstanding issues concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Since peoples had an inalienable right to self-determination and a right to oppose colonial and racist regimes and foreign occupation, a distinction had to be drawn between terrorism and the struggle for national liberation. That distinction should be based on legal terminology which had been clearly defined in international law and international humanitarian law. On the other hand, the sphere of application of any future comprehensive convention should not be so narrow as to exclude acts of violence that displayed all the characteristics of the crime of terrorism.

5. The possibility that terrorists might gain access to chemical, biological, nuclear and other deadly materials, as well as to weapons of mass destruction, was worrying. The adoption of an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism might provide a partial solution to the problem. While his Government supported moves within the United Nations to avert the threat of terrorists obtaining weapons of mass destruction, efforts in that direction had to be balanced and anti-terrorist measures should not be used as a pretext for resolving political dilemmas which had nothing to do with the issue.

6. The General Assembly should play a greater role in preventing and combating international terrorism. It should not only encourage the development of new international legal instruments for that purpose, but should also endeavour to identify and remove the root causes of terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had greatly enhanced the potential of the United Nations to lead the international campaign in that field and cooperation with that Committee should therefore be broadened. His Government had submitted three reports to the Committee. Moreover the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had had a beneficial impact on the legal system of his country in that it had facilitated the adoption of a number of important pieces of legislation. It would be advisable for the Counter-Terrorism Committee to cooperate more closely with international, regional and subregional bodies in matters of technical support and consultancy.

7. His Government was a party to 11 of the 12 fundamental multilateral treaties on combating terrorism and was on the point of acceding to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In order to foster international cooperation in fighting terrorism and to fulfil its international obligations in that respect, his Government was entering into bilateral treaties with other States and with a number of regional organizations.

8. It was to be hoped that the anti-terrorist measures adopted by the United Nations, the collective reason of Member States and a broadening of the dialogue between civilizations and peoples would make it possible to forestall further acts of international terrorism.

9. **Mr. Chaabani** (Tunisia) said that, in recent years, there had been an alarming resurgence of international terrorism which had struck indiscriminately at peoples and institutions, thereby causing death and destruction on a large scale. That situation had revealed the international community's vulnerability to terrorism, which was utterly despicable and constituted a worldwide threat to peace and security. The answer lay in common, global action which, ideally, should be coordinated by the United Nations. For that reason, the fact that several of its organs had joined the fight against international terrorism was to be welcomed and, in that context, the stepping up of the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and improved coordination between that Committee and regional and subregional organizations was a particular source of satisfaction.

10. In order to combat terrorism, his Government had concluded bilateral conventions, acceded to all the international and regional treaties on the subject and was engaging in increasingly close cooperation with the courts and police forces of other countries. The Chamber of Deputies was also examining a draft law on the appropriate machinery for suppressing the financing of terrorism.

11. Since organized transnational crime and terrorism were linked, the activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime were laudable and deserved support. Yet those activities would be incomplete unless a leading role were assigned to the General Assembly, which bore the primary responsibility for defining legal standards and measures to stamp out international terrorism.

12. While the adoption of sectoral conventions dealing with specific aspects of the problem had already had a dissuasive effect, the continued existence of some gaps in international law allowed terrorists a margin of manoeuvre. Those gaps should therefore be filled and, consequently the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism tackling all aspects of the issue would certainly consolidate the international community's efforts in that sphere. Similarly, as acts of nuclear terrorism would have catastrophic consequences for the whole of humanity, the conclusion of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism should be expedited. It was to be hoped that States would have the political will to resolve all the outstanding issues in order to arrive at instruments which would meet the concerns of all parties.

13. In the meantime, the President of his country had proposed the drafting of a global code of conduct on counter-terrorism, an idea which had been favourably received by the member States of several international organizations. The purpose of the code would be to improve the coordination of multilateral action to prevent all forms of terrorism while also taking account of legitimate aspirations to development, prosperity and dignity, since poverty, underdevelopment and exclusion fuelled the underlying causes of terrorism, namely frustration, hatred and extremism. The initiative set out to establish an ethical code for States which would obviate tension and confrontation, thus enabling them to develop stable and fruitful relations based on the principle of collective security in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation looked forward to receiving other delegations' comments on that initiative.

14. **Mr. Kone** (Burkina Faso) said that terrorism was indeed a major threat to international peace and security. Recent developments made it incumbent upon the international community to take steps forthwith to counter barbarous acts which constituted serious violations of the international legal order and which also demonstrated contempt for human life. An urgent global response was needed to parry the violence and arrogance of the perpetrators of such crimes. Terrorist acts were never justified on any grounds whatsoever.

15. His Government would do all it could to back the international community's struggle against terrorism and scorn for humanity. It had completed all the formalities needed to become a party to the 12 sectoral conventions on terrorism and had acceded to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism. Steps were being taken to implement them and to meet the country's commitments in the fight against terrorism.

16. The international community must engage in a concerted effort to conquer terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and, in so doing, it must comply with international law. Terrorist organizations could strike anywhere, as the killing of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello had proved, and they used modern methods of communication to elude legal and security systems. That was why it was vital to draft a comprehensive convention dealing with all aspects of the question, but which did not equate one particular religion or belief with terrorism. The convention should, on the other hand, define clearly the common enemy in order to fight it more effectively through concerted action. Such a convention, which would offer a single framework and supplement existing sectoral conventions, should be drafted speedily, for the urgency of the situation brooked no further delay.

17. A convention against acts of nuclear terrorism and a high-level conference convened by the United Nations would likewise provide a common response to that potential danger. In order to be effective, the world's battle against terrorism should be fought by a clear-thinking, sturdy coalition based on the United Nations.

18. **Mr. Qudar** (Yemen) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

19. His country was committed to Islam and to the United Nations Charter. It had acceded to a number of human rights instruments and international counter-terrorism conventions and was working to combat terrorism, to which end it had adopted a number of legislative and administrative measures. It called on the international community to join forces to eradicate terrorism, to finalize the text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to convene a high-level international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define the concept of terrorism.

20. The question of terrorism had become an urgent priority concern for the international community, leading to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which called on all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks and to take measures against the perpetrators of such acts. His country had been among the first States to suffer from terrorism and was anxious to combat and eliminate it as a threat to Yemen's security and stability which harmed its interests and those of its citizens.

21. It was important, however, to distinguish between terrorism and the right of peoples to struggle against foreign occupation, as in the case of the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people. The dream of his country was to see a world free of violence, hatred, war, destruction and fear, in which all people on earth enjoyed freedom, security, justice, equality and full human rights.

22. **Mr. Hahn** Myung-Jae (Republic of Korea) said that, despite the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee and notwithstanding the concerted international effort to eliminate terrorism, terrorist acts were still being committed throughout the world, causing an unacceptable loss of human life and the devastation of societies. No one was immune, not even the United Nations. Perhaps the killing of one of the international community's most able envoys, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, might lend added impetus to endeavours to prevent and eliminate terrorism.

23. All terrorist acts, methods and practices were criminal and unjustifiable, no matter where or by whom they were committed. For that reason, it would be advisable to resolve outstanding issues as soon as possible. To that end, a stronger political will and a spirit of compromise were vital. While differences over the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were being settled, all States should become parties to the sectoral conventions on that subject.

24. His Government had made every effort to eliminate international terrorism at the domestic, regional and international levels through full compliance with General Assembly resolutions on the topic and through ratification of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and would shortly be ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It had established the Korean Financial Intelligence Unit and had introduced laws and regulations to suppress the financing of terrorism. Furthermore, it participated actively in international forums where efforts were under way to eliminate international terrorism.

25. It was impossible to overstate the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to make

headway in the collective struggle against international terrorism. Hopefully, significant progress would be achieved in the near future in resolving the outstanding issues.

26. **Mr. Saranga** (Mozambique) said that terrorism continued to pose a major threat to international peace and security and constituted an obstacle to development, freedom and democracy. It was an evil force which should not be equated with any specific ethnic group or religion. The diversity of civilizations should be acknowledged and respected. For that reason, the fight against terrorism should be global and should also respect the dignity and fundamental freedoms of individuals, democratic and human values and the due process of law.

27. His Government was determined to combat the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and was convinced that the issue needed to be tackled globally and in a comprehensive manner by the international community. The United Nations remained the most appropriate and effective forum for addressing that scourge and should play the leading role in the international fight against terror.

28. In February 2003 his Government had deposited with the Secretary-General its ratification of four international counter-terrorism conventions. In compliance with its obligations under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), his Government had submitted its follow-up report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in May 2003, having enacted a law on money-laundering in 2002.

29. His delegation urged all States involved in the current negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism to show greater flexibility with a view to reaching a compromise.

30. **Ms. MacIntosh** (Suriname) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and the subsequent attacks in Bali, Mombasa, Moscow, Jakarta and on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad had made it even clearer that terrorism had no boundaries. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the international community should deal with that phenomenon through collective means. Her Government agreed with the Secretary-General that, while it was urgent to prevent terrorists from committing horrendous acts, there was also a need to strive for the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. It was likely that increased poverty, ill health, poor sanitation, injustice and many other factors formed a breeding ground for terrorism.

31. The international community must come to an agreement on a clear definition of terrorism. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, civilization or nationality. A commitment to human-centred security would generate greater international cooperation in many fields. The fight against terrorism must at all times take place within the framework of international law and respect for human rights, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

32. Her Government's commitment to the fight against terrorism was reflected in its submission of national reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, assignment of a National Security Adviser to the President as the national coordinator for terrorism-related matters, and signing of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in June 2002. Ratification of that instrument was in progress; with its entry into force, regional cooperation to combat terrorism would be strengthened through information exchanges, training and technical assistance. In that connection, Netherlands legal experts, under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, would evaluate and, where necessary, update Surinamese legislation.

33. Her Government also strongly supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to address the issue of terrorism.

34. **Mr. Wako** (Kenya) said that his delegation spoke with conviction on the item because his country had been a victim of terrorism in its most heinous form. The Kenyan people still had vivid memories of the terrorist attacks in 1998 on the United States Embassy in Nairobi and in 2002 in Mombasa. There had also been an attack on the prestigious Norfolk Hotel in 1993.

35. There was a critical need to further strengthen international cooperation. His delegation believed that the United Nations constituted a unique global forum for international cooperation in combating terrorism, which could only be effectively contained through an atmosphere of cooperation between States based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. His delegation also believed that, given the complex nature of the fight against terrorism, the General Assembly should play a central

coordinating role. While it appreciated the role played by other United Nations organs, such as the Security Council, his delegation recognized that only the General Assembly had the requisite mandate and representative character to carry out the task effectively. Such cooperation, furthermore, must be undertaken in an atmosphere of mutual respect for the principles of equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

36. There had been an overwhelming response to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). His delegation called upon that Committee to intensify its efforts to promote the implementation by Member States of all aspects of the resolution, particularly those regarding measures that States were expected to take to prevent the commission of terrorist acts. His Government applauded the initiative taken by the Committee to seek to strengthen the role of regional and subregional organizations. The coordinating role of regional bodies had been recognized during the recently concluded meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Seoul.

37. His Government continued to develop its capacity to fight terrorism and a national counter-terrorism centre had been established to coordinate those efforts. An anti-terrorism police unit had also been established to investigate and apprehend any persons involved in terrorist activities. His Government attached great importance to the adoption of institutional measures to prevent and suppress crimes linked to terrorist activities, such as arms and drug trafficking and money-laundering and to that end, had ratified the 12 sectoral instruments dealing with efforts to address those crimes.

38. One area that required urgent and specific attention under the Global Programme against Terrorism launched in October 2002 was training. The demand for training of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, investigators and judges in the application of United Nations standards and norms in the administration of justice had increased tremendously. In addition, Member States required advisory services on legislative policies.

39. On 30 April 2003 his Government had published the Suppression of Terrorism Bill, which was due to be debated in Parliament in the following month. The bill provided measures for the detection and prevention of terrorist activities in Kenya and defined terrorism, terrorist offences and terrorist organizations and property. In drawing up the Bill, his Government had been guided by the need to ensure a balance between protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens and fighting terrorism. The Bill had been drafted in accordance with the Commonwealth guidelines.

40. His delegation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved thus far by the Sixth Committee in the elaboration of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The successful conclusion of negotiations on those two instruments would be an achievement not just for the Sixth Committee, but for the entire world.

41. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that because of its capacity to adapt to globalization, the sophistication of its methods, and its close ties to transnational organized crime and money-laundering, terrorism posed the greatest threat to the world in the early twenty-first century. It was therefore necessary to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorism through accession by all States to the relevant international instruments and the adoption of binding measures in such areas as judicial assistance. There was a need to adopt and implement a series of measures aimed at drying up the sources of financing of terrorism, dismantling its logistical support networks and suppressing its propaganda arsenal.

42. Unilateral and bilateral action had proved inadequate in combating a global threat. States had therefore decided to cooperate within the framework of the United Nations, which was best suited to coordinate the activities of Member States. The General Assembly had laid the groundwork for such cooperation by adopting the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. His delegation fully supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to formulate a joint response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

43. On the African continent, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force almost a year before. That Convention had been strengthened by the adoption, at a meeting in Algiers in September 2002, of a plan of

action aimed at promoting access by African countries to appropriate methods of combating terrorism. Moreover, an African centre for studies and research on terrorism had been established, with its headquarters in Algiers. Its purpose was to serve as a clearing house for information, studies and analyses of terrorism and terrorist groups, and to develop training programmes through courses, seminars and symposiums. Similar efforts had been made through the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which had elaborated anti-terrorism instruments.

44. His Government was already a party to nearly all the international anti-terrorism conventions and was determined to continue to combat the scourge of terrorism with respect for the principles and norms of international law. His Government had submitted three reports pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and two reports under Security Council resolutions 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003).

45. His delegation hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which were both still pending before the General Assembly, could be finalized and adopted without delay. In that connection, his delegation had several proposals to make. First, as many terrorist support networks had developed in countries with strong traditions of granting asylum, it seemed reasonable to request, as part of the procedures for granting asylum, the necessary clarifications concerning the situation of the applicants, in particular from the country of which they were nationals. Second, a database on individuals, groups or organizations regarded as terrorist should be established and open to all States. In that connection, the list drawn up by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) was very useful. Third, there should be strict monitoring of funds belonging to individuals, enterprises or organizations suspected of being sources of financing for terrorist groups. Fourth, banks and financial institutions must be responsible for stricter monitoring of capital flows suspected of being linked to terrorist acts. In that connection, his Government had established a financial intelligence unit as an independent structure within the Ministry of Finance in order to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing. Fifth, a database should be established on sources of financing for terrorist groups. Sixth, monitoring, surveillance and detection equipment at the borders, and specific equipment for intervention, protection, detection and neutralization, as well as the necessary means for preparing forgery-proof travel and identity documents should be supplied on an emergency basis. Seventh, a follow-up and coordination mechanism should be established under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to manage the aforementioned databases and develop confiscation procedures. Regular programmes of exchanges and consultation relating to data on terrorist groups, judicial proceedings, and updating of legislation and regulations should be established. Specialized training programmes for personnel involved in combating terrorism should be developed. Eighth, and lastly, an international assistance fund should be established for the fight against terrorism to provide multifaceted support to developing countries in adapting and streamlining their legislation.

46. **Ms. Konaté** (Mali) reaffirmed her delegation's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and regardless of its perpetrators, sponsors and motives. At the same time, her delegation believed that the fight against terrorism must be carried out with strict respect for human rights, and that no simplistic amalgams should be made between terrorism and Islam, nor should the fight against terrorism become a clash of civilizations.

47. Her Government had ratified the 12 international legal instruments for combating terrorism along with the African Union and OIC conventions. Her country had been one of the first to ratify the Protocol to Combat the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, additional to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Currently, consideration was being given to implementing the mechanisms and procedures defined by the seminar held in Dakar on 7 and 8 February 2002 on money-laundering in the States members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

48. In terms of assisting other States, Mali was a member of the committee of police chiefs of West Africa, which was a framework for the exchange of operational information in the fight against terrorism. Her Government had also established a special intervention brigade, an anti-crime brigade within the

National Police, and a mobile intervention brigade within the customs authority. On 12 October 2003 an international conference organized by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies had been held in Bamako in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs The aim of the conference had been to study the nature and extent of terrorism and its threat to stability in North and West Africa. Her Government had also held meetings with certain neighbouring countries in order to collect and disseminate information needed to combat suspected terrorist cells in northern Mali and in the no-man's-land common to Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Joint patrols had also been organized in order to curb trafficking in all types of weapons in the region.

49. Her delegation, welcomed the substantial progress made in the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and expressed its full support for the convening as soon as possible, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a high-level international conference on terrorism.

50. **Mr. Liow** (Malaysia), said his delegation associated itself with the statements made on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Although individual efforts by Member States to strengthen their legislative framework and financial and border controls were welcome, terrorism could be effectively eliminated only through collective efforts, with the emphasis on identifying and dealing with the underlying causes of terrorism. States should therefore build on existing regional and international networks to facilitate the exchange of information among law-enforcement and intelligence agencies.

51. Malaysia could draw on a comprehensive compendium of 55 laws to combat terrorism. In addition to the Penal Code, which was currently being amended to make the commission or financing of terrorist acts and hostage-taking specific offences, he drew attention to the Internal Security Act of 1960 — originally enacted to counter the insurgency mounted by the Malayan Communist Party — under which people could be detained with a view to preventing them from acting in a manner prejudicial to national security, the maintenance of essential services or economic life. The law was used only in the most serious cases. The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, which enabled the authorities to freeze or seize the property of any person reasonably suspected of money-laundering, would shortly be amended to empower them to freeze or seize funds intended to be used for terrorist acts, regardless of whether they derived from legitimate sources or were the proceeds of crime. The proposed amendments would enable the Government to freeze the assets of known terrorists on the basis of information received from, among others, the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act of 2002 enabled Malaysia to seek and provide mutual assistance in criminal matters. The Government had also recently initiated discussions — which had received a heartening response — on the possibility of concluding a multilateral treaty on mutual assistance among like-minded ASEAN countries.

52. Malaysia was a party to five of the international terrorism conventions and hoped by the end of the year to deposit instruments of accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages. His delegation had also participated actively in the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which were both needed to complement the existing conventions. Malaysia had further been involved in reviews of related conventions within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization.

53. Malaysia had established the South-East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur in July 2003. The Centre had held its first workshop, on suspicious transaction reports, in August and further training programmes would be arranged to enhance the capability of regional law-enforcement agencies, in collaboration with interested countries.

54. The bilateral and multilateral instruments entered into by Malaysia to combat terrorism included the Agreement on Information Exchange and Establishment of Communication Procedures, signed by Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in May 2002 and subsequently acceded to by Cambodia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam; the Declaration of Cooperation between Malaysia and the United States of America to Combat International Terrorism, signed in May 2002; the United States-ASEAN Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism,

signed in August 2002; and the Memorandum of Understanding between Malaysia and Australia, signed in August 2002.

55. A clear understanding of what constituted "terrorism" remained essential. A universally accepted definition should therefore be elaborated, for otherwise perpetrators of terrorist acts would continue to justify their actions in the name of State security or national liberation. General Assembly resolution 49/60, and in particular paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, would provide a useful guide for any discussion of the issue, as would the definitions contained in certain regional conventions on terrorism. He stressed, however, that combating terrorism should not diminish the need to acknowledge the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination for national self-determination.

56. **Mr. Nhleko** (Swaziland) said that the world lived in fear: terrorists were known to wish to acquire weapons of mass destruction and, if they did so, they would use them without compunction. There would be no warning and thousands of innocent lives might be lost at a stroke. The international community could not afford to ignore the threat to its security. Terrorism could never be justified. Its use could only defile any cause, however worthy. The recent reports that some terrorist groups were actively engaged in plans to conduct another attack on certain countries could only confirm the current lamentable state of the world.

57. The basic challenge facing the international community was to ensure that a concerted international response was in place to make it harder for terrorists to accomplish their objectives. The swift response following the terrorist bombings in New York and elsewhere on 11 September 2001 was an object lesson in how the international community should react to a clear threat to world peace and security. In that context, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had achieved much. Most Member States had accelerated their accession to the 12 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and many had implemented the legal norms required to deter and to prosecute terrorists. Regional efforts had also borne fruit. His own country had met its obligations under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and had acceded to all 12 anti-terrorism conventions. It continued to work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and with the Commonwealth.

58. There was an urgent need, however, to conclude negotiations on the two draft conventions. Any differences in approach should not lead to a state of paralysis. In the hurly-burly of international politics, over-cautious ad hoc measures had no place. With political will, the necessary steps could be taken. It was, perhaps, time for the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/10 of 17 December 1996 to give serious consideration to the question of convening a high-level conference to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism, including the identification of its root cause, as called for by the Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Such a conference should also have a mandate to define terrorism in clear terms.

59. **Ms. Al-Ghanem** (Kuwait) said that her country strongly condemned terrorism, which posed a threat to international peace and security and to human life and was a manifestation of extremism unconnected with any particular religion, civilization or nation. Her delegation strongly supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. With regard to the important proposal put forward by the Organization of the Islamic Conference concerning articles 2 bis and 18 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, that convention should include a precise definition of terrorism, distinguishing it from the legitimate struggle against occupation in accordance with the United Nations Charter. It was essential to respect human rights in the context of efforts to combat terrorism.

60. One of the worst forms of terrorism was State terrorism as practised by the former Iraqi regime, which had committed crimes against both Kuwait and the Iraqi people. In that connection, Kuwait emphasized the need to bring the war criminals of the former Iraqi regime to trial.

61. Kuwait condemned the terrorism practised by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian people and its acts of terrorism committed against Syrian territory, which violated all the principles of international law and of the Charter.

62. Kuwait was committed to resisting terrorism in all its forms, whether international, regional or national, and had acceded to nine of the 12 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions. It had agreed in

principle to accede to the remaining three conventions, which were currently being considered by the National Assembly with a view to approval. Kuwait had also signed the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism, which was currently on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

63. At the domestic level, a local committee on international terrorism, comprising all the competent authorities of the State, had been established to consider all matters relating to terrorism with a view to closing loopholes that might be exploited by terrorists. Kuwait had promulgated Act No. 35 of 2002 on combating money-laundering, on the basis of which the Central Bank of Kuwait had promulgated a State decision establishing the Financial Investigation Unit. Moreover, the director of the securities market had issued a decision embodying the principles for combating money-laundering.

64. Kuwait had also established the Supreme Committee for the Regulation of Charitable Work, chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, to regulate charitable work and the collection of funds for charity. The opening of bank accounts in the name of associations or committees was strictly regulated and the transfer of funds abroad required ministerial approval. As an indication of the seriousness with which her country viewed the combat against terrorism, she noted that Kuwait would shortly be submitting its third report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

65. **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco) reaffirmed his delegation's clear, firm and consistent condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, whatever its source or motivation and no matter who the perpetrators were. Following the terrorist attack in Casablanca on 16 May 2003, the whole nation had united to condemn such abominable acts. A march had taken place to reject violence, ostracism and fanaticism. The Government would not be deflected from its construction of a united and democratic society imbued with the values of tolerance and solidarity. As the King had said, Morocco would continue to pursue the path of democracy and modernization. Far from intimidating the country, the terrorists had galvanized public opinion against them.

66. On 28 May 2003, the Government had adopted an anti-terrorism law which defined terrorism, increased the penalties for terrorist acts, established administrative and legal procedures and dealt with the financing of terrorism, in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to which Morocco had acceded. Moreover, in addition to being a party to almost all the international anti-terrorism conventions, the Government had taken steps to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), having immediately decided that it was admissible in Moroccan law and thus open to direct and immediate application.

67. Despite the solid legal framework of anti-terrorism instruments developed over the past 30 years, the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would fill a need. His delegation therefore deplored the absence of real political will that was impeding negotiations on the draft. The function of such a convention would be to give added value to existing conventions. One crucial point was that of the definition of terrorism, difficult though that might be. Any definition would have to take into account the difference between a legitimate struggle against foreign occupation, as in the case of the Palestinian people, and the terrorism suffered most recently by the United States, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. As for the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, it was disgraceful that no progress had been made. His delegation supported the convening of a high-level conference to formulate a joint response to terrorism. Although individual action by States was valuable, it could not, in the face of the threat confronting the world, be sufficient. Action should be part of the solidarity among nations, which should develop a global strategy. Cooperation could take several forms, including exchange of information, implementation of international conventions and joint declarations and policies. The United Nations was the proper place for the development of such a coordinated response.

68. **Mr. Hoffmann** (South Africa) said that the United Nations must continue to be at the forefront of international initiatives to combat terrorism. It was important to address the root causes of terrorism, including through the ending of perennial problems such as the conflict in the Middle East and through a worldwide joint commitment to eradicating poverty and underdevelopment. The global war against terrorism should not be conducted at the expense of

development, human rights, civil liberties or the rule of law.

69. South Africa had met its reporting obligations under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1390 (2002) and 1455 (2003) and was considering ways to assist other States of its region with the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It also worked closely with its regional partners and with organizations such as the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth in the area of counter-terrorism. South Africa had become a party to nine of the twelve international counter-terrorism instruments, most recently the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and the Convention on the Protection and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents; Parliament's adoption of the South African Anti-Terrorism Bill would facilitate ratification of the remaining conventions.

70. The comprehensive international legal framework for the suppression and combating of terrorism had been immeasurably strengthened by the adoption of the existing conventions. However, success depended upon resolution of the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. He appreciated the efforts made by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group; however, little, if any, progress had been made during their past two sessions. While recognizing that there were legitimate concerns, he urged delegations to make every effort to find a compromise. The Committee should consider how to resolve the current impasse and whether to hold a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in early 2004 or to continue consideration of the issue in the context of a working group during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

71. **Mr. Gilman** (United States of America) said that those who engaged in terrorism did so because they were not interested in peace and preferred to target the peacemakers. He extended his condolences to the families of the Americans killed in the recent attack on a diplomatic convoy in Gaza and warned the attackers that they could run, but they could not hide.

72. Since the barbaric attacks of 11 September 2001, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had assembled a substantial body of worldwide counter-terrorism capacity, maintained an open-ended and increasingly focused dialogue with States about the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) helped to match donors and recipients of assistance and coordinated the activities of other organizations working in the area of counter-terrorism. Through the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, the Security Council was also monitoring States' efforts to implement resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1390 (2002).

73. He hoped that the General Assembly would adopt by consensus a resolution under agenda item 156 which would call on Member States to adopt legislative and administrative measures in the area of counter-terrorism on an urgent basis, urge Member States to become parties to the 12 international counter-terrorism instruments, stress the importance of enhancing States' capacity to combat terrorism, highlight the role of regional, subregional and other relevant organizations and emphasize the importance of deepening cooperation and communication among States in the fight against terrorism.

74. The Sixth Committee retained the primary role in negotiating and drafting international legal texts concerning terrorism, and had drafted a number of the 12 international counter-terrorism instruments. However, it had failed to reach closure on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism because not every State had concluded that terrorism was unacceptable in all circumstances.

75. The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna played a crucial role in helping States accede to the 12 international counter-terrorism instruments and incorporate them into national law. In addition, United Nations field offices should provide the Counter-Terrorism Committee with information to be used in its review of States' reports and the specialized agencies should be encouraged to develop counter-terrorism programmes in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee; he hoped that those proposals would be reflected in the Sixth Committee's resolution under the current agenda item.

76. Increasing numbers of international, regional and subregional organizations were developing or enhancing existing counter-terrorism action plans. The Organization of American States (OAS) had recently organized a meeting of some 60 organizations as

follow-up to the March 2003 special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations in order to share codes, best practices and standards; little such cooperation had existed prior to 11 September 2001.

77. The terrorist attacks in Bali, Bogota, Jerusalem, Mombasa, Haifa and Gaza were a harsh reminder that the international counter-terrorism effort had just begun and were proof that so long as a few States were not taking the necessary action to combat that problem, all States remained vulnerable. Some 150 States had not yet acceded to all 12 of the international counter-terrorism instruments; many States still lacked adequate domestic legislation to regulate the banking sector, charities, or border monitoring; almost 50 States were late in submitting follow-up reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee; and some regional organizations had not developed action plans and committees to monitor the implementation thereof. States must act as though the events of 11 September 2001 had taken place the previous day and must remember that they could occur again anywhere and at any time. The international community's capacity to fight terrorism was only as strong as its weakest link.

78. **Mr. Baatar** (Mongolia) said that since the events of 11 September 2001, terrorist networks had been disrupted and attacks foiled in several countries; the sense of global solidarity that had emerged in the aftermath of those tragic events should be upheld and maintained. Yet the threat of terror remained and must be fought, first at home and then at the regional and global levels. The United Nations should play a central role in developing and implementing the global strategy for combating terrorism. It was therefore important for States to display political will, wisdom, flexibility and compromise in order to reach early agreement on the two draft counter-terrorism conventions. The fight against terrorism should not be used to justify violations of human and civil rights; without a clear legal definition of the problem, efforts to combat it could themselves become terrorist acts.

79. It was also important to address the root causes of terrorism. The United Nations and other interested parties, whether individually or collectively, might conduct a comprehensive study and make recommendations in that regard. He agreed with other speakers that one key to a long-term solution to terrorism lay in promoting understanding and tolerance, reducing poverty and inequality and overcoming the development gap, since those problems could become a breeding ground for terrorists. The early entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would help to prevent the financing of terrorist networks.

80. His Government had consistently condemned all forms of terrorism. Mongolia had criminalized the commission or threat of terrorist acts and was a party to all the multilateral counter-terrorism instruments applicable to it. Domestic procedures for ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism were well under way, and Mongolia had been the first State to submit a report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations A/C.6/58/SR.8

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Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)

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Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism *(continued)*

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism *(continued)* (A/58/37, A/58/37/Corr.1, A/58/116, A/58/116/Add.1, A/58/78-S/2003/541, A/58/94-S/2003/642, A/58/131-S/2003/703, A/58/271-S/2003/808, A/58/302, A/58/315-S/2003/845, A/58/361-S/2003/877, A/58/390-S/2003/916, A/58/424-S/2003/972, A/58/425-S/2003/976 and A/C.6/58/L.10)

1. **Mr. Senanayake** (Sri Lanka) noted that despite the efforts made to combat international terrorism, the number of innocent victims continued to rise. After 20 years of terror in its own territory, Sri Lanka was finally at peace thanks to his Government's unshakable political will and spirit of compromise in face of seemingly insuperable obstacles.

2. Convinced that the United Nations must be at the centre of all decisions taken towards the resolution of problems that concerned the whole of mankind, his country had on 23 September 2003 ratified the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. It had committed itself without reservation to the support of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and had undertaken to participate actively in the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. In that connection, Sri Lanka called upon all States to show the political will needed in order to break the current deadlock in the Ad Hoc Committee's work as swiftly as possible.

3. Sri Lanka was also actively collaborating with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to which it had already submitted three reports. It was in process of incorporating the provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) in its domestic law, as a result of which it would be able to freeze assets intended for financing terrorism and to suppress money laundering. Being a party to 10 of the 12 international instruments relating to terrorism, his country was determined to pursue its dialogue and cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

4. At the regional level, Sri Lanka had taken the initiative of convening, in Colombo in August 2003, a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), at which progress had been made in the drafting of an additional protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, whose purpose was to incorporate in the Convention the obligations contracted under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

5. In conclusion, he said that, given the linkage existing between terrorism, drugs and arms trafficking, money laundering and transnational crime in general, it was imperative that all States should scrupulously discharge their international obligations and should coordinate their efforts at the national and regional levels in order to enhance the efficacy of the fight against those threats to international peace and security.

6. **Mr. Guterres** (Timor-Leste), while recognizing the need to tackle the root causes of terrorism, agreed with the Secretary-General that poverty was not the only cause of the evil. Denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms could also sometimes provoke the violence of members of networks having considerable financial resources at their disposal. A multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach should therefore be adopted at all levels in order to eliminate the deeper causes of the violence that lay at the root of terrorism. The twelve existing international instruments represented the arsenal at the international community's disposal in waging that struggle strictly within the limits of human rights and international humanitarian law. States were in duty bound to strengthen those instruments by ratifying them and fully implementing their provisions, as his country solemnly undertook to do.

7. He welcomed the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 with a view to drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and was convinced that, given the importance of the matter and the urgency of the international situation, that work would soon culminate in consensus.

8. Although its own efforts were concentrated on creating a nation founded upon democracy, justice and the rule of law, his country was aware of the responsibility incumbent upon it, as upon other small States, to take the necessary steps at the domestic level to implement internationally recognized standards and to set up preventive machinery with a view to ensuring stability and security at the national, regional and global levels. To achieve those ends, Timor-Leste, like other developing countries, needed both bilateral and multilateral technical assistance of a sustained kind. Since its independence in 2002, his country had already signed cooperation agreements with neighbouring States and was enjoying the assistance of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor. It intended to continue along that path, for only by working jointly towards international peace and security and towards the attainment of the goals of freedom and justice set out in the Millennium Declaration could members of the international community win the battle against terrorism.

9. **Mr. Lwin** (Myanmar), associating himself with the statement made by Vietnam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), recalled that his country had not been spared by terrorism. Myanmar was determined to fight acts of terrorism whoever might be their perpetrators and wherever they might take place.

10. With reference to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210, he said that, notwithstanding the existence of numerous instruments and despite the problems encountered in seeking a definition that distinguished between terrorism and the right of peoples to self-determination, a comprehensive convention on international terrorism remained a necessity if individuals who perpetrated acts of terrorism in one country were not to remain unpunished provided they found refuge in another.

11. Furthermore, the international community must imperatively tackle the question of poverty as a root cause of terrorism, for while it was true that poverty alone did not engender violence, it was nevertheless a contributory factor. It was therefore essential that Member States should, as provided in the Millennium Declaration, work together towards the elimination of poverty.

12. Myanmar had ratified several of the 12 international anti-terrorism instruments, including, most recently, the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It also participated in the regional struggle against terrorism within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

13. **Mr. Kobayashi** (Japan) said that the struggle against terrorism presupposed widespread international cooperation, particularly with a view to enhancing the existing framework of international law. It was therefore important that all States should become parties to the conventions in force, which obliged them to judge or extradite the perpetrators of terrorist acts.

14. By ratifying the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, his country had become party to the twelve existing international anti-terrorism conventions, and it intended to continue its collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Committee by offering its assistance to all countries that might need it. Japan was in favour of the adoption of new instruments that would enable terrorists to be brought to justice whatever the nature of the acts perpetrated. It therefore unreservedly supported the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Despite the difficult problems that remained to be surmounted, Japan hoped that a consensus would shortly emerge and that the General Assembly would adopt the drafts in question, thus enhancing the framework of existing international law on the suppression of terrorism.

15. **Mr. Al-Shubaili** (Saudi Arabia), associating himself with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, recalled that his country, which had itself been a victim of terrorism, had always condemned that evil in all its forms and manifestations.

16. At the national level, Saudi Arabia had adopted laws designed for the severe suppression of terrorism and the prevention of the financing thereof. At the international level, it had supported all the Security Council's resolutions and had actively participated in all the international community's initiatives; it had been among the first to sign the Arab League's Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the Convention on the Struggle against International

Terrorism of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and was a party to many other anti-terrorist conventions.

17. Highly important as cooperation was, the adoption of an integrated approach taking account of the political, economic and social aspects of the phenomenon was no less so. Such conditions as occupation, oppression, injustice and the absence of hope for a just solution could all be exploited by the partisans of extremism and violence to advance their cause among populations, especially the young. Thus, Israel's 35-year occupation of Palestine created a vicious circle that would only be broken when the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, recognized by the international community and by United Nations resolutions, were at last respected. Yet the undertakings of successive Israeli Governments to respect those rights in accordance with agreements signed over the years were not complied with, as witness the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and their legitimate leaders.

18. In conclusion, he said that his delegation firmly supported the international struggle against terrorism but refused to allow that struggle to serve as a pretext for depriving peoples living under occupation of their right to self-determination.

19. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) remarked that despite the counter-terrorism measures taken by the international community since the 1960s, including the adoption of 12 sectoral conventions and the holding of a special session of the General Assembly, it had not been possible to prevent the events of 11 September. A multilateral approach focused on identifying the root causes of terrorism and concerted action by the entire international community were needed in order to combat the phenomenon, whose intensity was growing on a planetary scale.

20. To that end, his country had supported all measures adopted by the United Nations and all mechanisms set up for the suppression of terrorism, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to which it had submitted a report setting out in detail the initiatives it had taken at the national level in pursuance of resolution 1373 (2001), including the establishment of a high-level national anti-terrorist committee, the adoption of laws for the suppression of terrorism and money laundering, and the ratification of all relevant major international instruments.

21. His delegation considered, however, that it was urgent to enhance the existing framework of international law by completing the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It regretted that a comprehensive definition of terrorism acceptable to all had not yet been found. For its part, it was prepared to be flexible on paragraph 2 of article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism in the hope that progress could be achieved in the ongoing negotiations concerning that part of the draft.

22. **Mr. Hmoud** (Jordan) said that terrorist acts, which were on the increase - inter alia in terms of the human and material losses they caused - had created a new worldwide reality that called for a clear and comprehensive strategy.

23. In the elaboration and implementation of such a strategy, the United Nations was called upon to play a central role. The struggle against terrorism could not hope to yield positive results unless it was based upon active cooperation between States and a clear orientation on the part of the United Nations. The strategy adopted within the United Nations framework must therefore be founded upon a certain number of principles and upon complementary action by different United Nations organs, in particular the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, on the one hand, and the General Assembly on the other.

24. The Security Council, responsible principally for the maintenance of international peace and security, could take steps that were obligatory for States, but the question of international terrorism also had numerous political, social and legal aspects with which the Council could not deal by itself. The General Assembly had adopted many resolutions on the question of terrorism, but given the way in which the situation was developing it was obliged to consider new measures that would reflect the essential role it was called upon to play in defining a comprehensive framework in the field of counter-terrorism.

25. The numerous conventions and other international instruments relating to the anti-terrorism struggle were the fruit of sustained efforts within the General Assembly and had had considerable effect on the measures taken by States, as well as in terms of

extensive international cooperation in the anti-terrorism struggle. The Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee would not have been able to achieve concrete and rapid results without the corpus of laws constituted under the auspices of the General Assembly. In order to maintain the international mobilisation against terrorism, there was need for resolute action on the part of the General Assembly, which in turn presupposed the early adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism and of the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

26. As the Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs had stated at the opening of the current session, Jordan would do everything in its power to ensure the rapid adoption of those two conventions, and the Jordanian delegation would redouble its efforts to seek legal and technical solutions capable of surmounting the difficulties that stood in the way of their adoption.

27. His delegation's position in the negotiations on the two drafts was based on three factors. First, the legal mechanisms resulting from the negotiations had to be effective, which meant that the legal framework of their adoption had to be clear and precise. Secondly, the nature of terrorist acts did not change with the motive behind them. The two conventions must qualify them as crimes irrespective of the political ends for which they were committed, and such criminalisation had to apply to the perpetrator of the act whatever his position or status. Lastly, international law and international humanitarian law drew a distinction between what constituted a terrorist act and what was a legitimate act committed in the exercise of rights conferred upon States, peoples and individuals by international law. The two conventions must not challenge those rights and must not lend themselves to being used in order to justify acts contrary to international law.

28. Adoption of the comprehensive convention would facilitate the defining of a clear strategy for the anti-terrorism struggle because the additional obligations imposed by the convention could be directly linked with the execution of Security Council measures and because the convention's definition of terrorist acts would assist States in taking measures at the national level, as well as measures relating to judicial and administrative cooperation with States and other international parties concerned. However, the legal edifice thus constituted would not be able to eliminate international terrorism by itself alone. The factors contributing towards the phenomenon must also be tackled. To that end, the United Nations must take into consideration, in full impartiality, the views of States and other parties concerned concerning the manner in which terrorism should be eliminated.

29. In any event, his country - whose awareness of the problem predated that of others because of its proximity to the events in the Middle East region - was continuing to strengthen its machinery for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. The national laws and regulations adopted to that effect imposed extremely heavy sanctions upon the perpetrators of terrorist acts and defined the modalities of legal and administrative mutual assistance with other States, as well as with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established by Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). Jordan had also recently ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and intended shortly to ratify three other conventions which it had already signed.

30. **Mr. Qi Dahai** (China) said that the international community had become aware of the urgent need to intensify cooperation between States in the anti-terrorism struggle. His country, which had always opposed the use of terror for political ends, wanted the United Nations to play a central role in that struggle, which must respect the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as other rules of international law.

31. China, which was a party to 10 of the 12 international instruments in force in the field of counter-terrorism and had taken active part in the Sixth Committee's work in connection with the two draft international conventions on that subject, intended to continue to cooperate with the rest of the international community with a view to enhancing the convention-based legal framework of the counter-terrorism struggle.

32. His delegation endorsed Egypt's proposal for the holding of a high-level conference on the counter-terrorism struggle under the auspices of the United Nations, but wished to emphasize the need for adequate preparation and for a precisely defined conference agenda.

33. **Ms. Randrianarivony** (Madagascar) said that her Government, aware of the seriousness of the threat, had undertaken firm commitments with regard to its participation in the counter-terrorist struggle and in

international cooperation in that field at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

34. Madagascar was now party to all 12 international conventions on terrorism and had taken steps to bring those instruments into force within its domestic legislation. As a member of Interpol, it had at its disposal an early-warning system enabling it to exchange information with other States. It welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, which constituted the necessary legal framework for combating activities such as money laundering and corruption, a matter of the greatest importance given the growing links between transnational organized crime and terrorist crimes. Her country had been among the first signatories of the Convention and was embarked upon the process of its ratification.

35. At the regional level, Madagascar had ratified the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and had associated itself with all initiatives taken by the African Union with a view to contributing towards worldwide action in that field. It also participated in cooperation and information exchange activities conducted within the framework of the Indian Ocean Commission in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime, in particular drug trafficking.

36. Her delegation considered that there was an imperative need to reflect upon the causes of terrorism, and therefore supported the proposal to convene, under United Nations auspices, a high-level conference for the purpose of outlining the international community's common response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

37. Lastly, she expressed the hope that a consensus would rapidly emerge on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and on the international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

38. **Mr. Nguyen Duy Chien** (Vietnam), speaking on behalf of the ASEAN countries, said that the fight against international terrorism called for concerted efforts in which the United Nations had a central role to play by ensuring that the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law were duly respected.

39. The ASEAN countries attached great importance to the work of the Sixth Committee and welcomed the drafting of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which would contribute towards the enhancement of the existing legal framework. They intended to continue cooperating closely with other States in the Ad Hoc Committee with a view to reaching consensus on those two drafts.

40. At the regional level, the ASEAN countries had continued to strengthen their cooperation in the field of the counter-terrorism struggle. In particular, they had adopted a declaration in which they expressed their determination to implement the measures they had taken in order to prevent and suppress the activities of terrorist groups in the region, and had held several meetings on terrorist activities and tourism, money laundering, the financing of terrorism and transnational crime. They had stressed the need to tackle the root causes of terrorism and to reject all attempts to associate terrorism with any particular religion, race, nationality or ethnic group. They had also concluded an agreement designed to utilize existing ASEAN machinery to enhance national and regional capacities in the field of combating terrorism.

41. Cooperation at the interregional level had also been intensified. The ASEAN countries had recently adopted several joint declarations on security and cooperation in the struggle against international terrorism and transnational crime with the United States, China, the European Union and India, respectively, and had established a counter-terrorist activities centre for the Southeast Asia region. A ministerial meeting on transnational crime attended by the ASEAN countries, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea would be held in Thailand in January 2004 with a view to the further enhancement of the struggle against terrorism.

42. **Mr. Martirdsyan** (Armenia) said that the causes of terrorism were a matter not only of different regions but also of different common roots. Some believed terrorism to be the result of the chasm dividing "rich" from "poor" and thought that wealth had to be redistributed for the benefit of the poorest countries. Others saw it in terms of the conflict between modern and traditional societies. Faced with scientific and technological advances which vastly accelerated the integration of national economies within a single

global structure, countries had no choice but to adapt to the situation, taking advantage of whatever possibilities were open to them, or else to be thrust aside.

43. Adaptation to a rapidly changing world necessitated the adoption of new political and economic mechanisms designed to ensure development and the wellbeing of the population, but it also entailed the elimination of traditional groups and ideologies. Opposition to those processes was liable to arise not only within societies already involved in the process of economic integration but not yet ready to participate in world trade, but also, and especially, in traditional societies unable to find a place for themselves within the new world order. Sometimes such opposition took the form of a political and religious project, but it could also be reflected in violent clashes and could promote the emergence of terrorist movements, especially in traditional societies.

44. Two strategies were called for in combating terrorism. First, political decisions should be taken to encourage regimes that might be tempted to resort to terrorism to participate in the work of decision-making bodies. Secondly, while it was true that extremism and terrorism were political problems that had to be resolved by political means, the threat they represented were too serious to allow the world to wait for political solutions, which were often slow in coming. If necessary, they had to be combated by force.

45. It was essential to arrive at a universally accepted definition of terrorism, without which the goal of eliminating terrorism could not be attained. The international community led by the United Nations had to do everything in its power to promote democratic change and sustainable development in all parts of the world in order to eliminate the underlying causes of terrorism.

46. **Mr. Ri Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorism was practised not only by groups or individuals but also by States. There was such a thing as State terrorism, which took the form of unilateral threats, sanctions, political pressures and the blacklisting of certain States that belonged to a supposed "axis of evil" and were designated to serve as targets of preventive nuclear strikes. The struggle against terrorism was turned into a pretext for attacks against sovereign States.

47. His delegation believed that specific measures had to be taken to tackle the root causes of terrorism and that it was for each State to decide upon the action it meant to take towards that end.

48. The developing countries had already defined the root causes of terrorism and had proposed the convening of an international conference on terrorism, the need for which was greater than ever today. The struggle against terrorism had to be founded upon multilateralism, and the United Nations had to play an essential role in that regard. All States Members of the United Nations had to respect the Organization and to abide by the principles of the Charter.

49. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which had always rejected all forms of terrorism, was convinced that the struggle against that evil could succeed only if the sovereignty of States, the right to development and the freedom of peoples were preserved. It cooperated actively with the United Nations by submitting regular reports on its activities in that field, and it intended to pursue its efforts to eliminate the root causes of terrorism in order to guarantee peace and security for all.

50. **Mr. Šahović** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that the struggle against terrorism, which as yet was far from won, should be conducted in full respect of the primacy of law and of human rights. Moreover, interest had to be taken in the multiple causes of terrorism, particularly those of an economic and social nature. His Government was convinced that the United Nations had a central role to play in the struggle against terrorism and that its actions should be coordinated with those of the competent regional and subregional organizations. Member States, however, bore the first responsibility for implementing the international agreements to which they had subscribed.

51. His country, for its part, had already joined 9 of the 12 international conventions on terrorism and was preparing to become a party to the remaining three. It was in favour of strengthening cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional and subregional organizations with a view to avoiding overlapping and waste. It duly reported to the Committee of the Security Council established by resolution 1267 (1999) and to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its implementation of resolutions 1455 (2003) and 1373 (2001), respectively. Furthermore, it cooperated closely with other countries of the

subregion, as well as with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and with Interpol.

52. At the domestic level, the harmonisation of national laws with the framework of international law was in progress. In particular, it included the enhancing of control over financial transactions in the interests of preventing the financing of terrorism, which would soon become an offence under his country's Penal Code. A special unit for combating the financing of terrorism had been set up under a new law on the suppression of money laundering.

53. Notwithstanding all those efforts, Serbia and Montenegro continued to be exposed to acts of terrorism in the province of Kosovo-Metohija, where terrorism had links with organized crime, particularly trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons. It was therefore incumbent upon the international authorities present in that province to take more energetic steps in combatting such activities. His Government hoped that the protocol on cooperation in police matters which it had signed with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo would prove useful in that respect.

54. With regard to the work of the Sixth Committee, his delegation hoped that agreement would be reached without delay on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which would supplement the existing framework if laws governing the counter-terrorism struggle. The drafts submitted by India and the Russian Federation, respectively, provided a sound basis for discussion.

55. **Mr. Gappoev** (Russian Federation) remarked that terrorism had become an inescapable reality, necessitating the creation of a worldwide system for the detection of terrorist threats and the adoption of appropriate steps to eliminate them. The system had to include reliable mechanisms in the political, financial, economic and military fields as well as in terms of information exchange.

56. He welcomed the strengthening of United Nations activities to combat terrorism and, in particular, the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established by the Security Council. That Committee's efforts to associate the relevant regional organizations with its activities were to be especially commended. Meetings organized by it, such as that for the promotion of regional cooperation held in Washington on 7 October, were extremely useful in that they enabled bodies such as the counter-terrorism centre of the Community of Independent States (CIS) and the anti-terrorist unit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to keep abreast of progress achieved on the world scale. The sustained dialogue established with organizations responsible for the control of weapons of mass destruction was also to be welcomed.

57. Stressing the importance of a framework of laws designed to enhance international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, he expressed the hope that the two draft conventions on terrorism would soon be finalized. He also hoped that a growing number of States would become parties to the international conventions on terrorism, adding that the Russian Federation was about to become a party to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

58. The international community would succeed in putting a stop to terrorism only if the coordination of certain essential tasks were entrusted to the United Nations. Those tasks included, in particular, improving the programmes for the indemnification of victims of terrorism; encouraging civil society and the media to participate actively in the counter-terrorism struggle; eliminating double standards from policies on terrorism; promoting inter-religious dialogue; improving the machinery for mutual legal assistance and extradition proceedings with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators of terrorist acts were brought to justice; and guaranteeing the right of everyone to be protected against terrorism.

59. **Mr. Mackay** (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Pacific Islands Forum, said that regional cooperation was a central element of the Forum countries' anti-terrorism struggle. In August 2002 those countries had adopted the Nasonini Declaration, which dealt with the prevention and suppression of terrorism and international crime as well as with threats to national integrity and independence. The Declaration was also intended to enhance cooperation towards more effective implementation of the law, the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) and the special recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering. A special working group had been set up to coordinate the preparation of a regional framework, including standard legislative provisions to combat terrorism and transnational crime. A regional initiative had been

launched with a view to enhancing the maintenance of order in the region and improving cooperation between police forces.

60. The Forum States were continuing their efforts towards the ratification of the 12 counter-terrorism instruments and the implementation of their provisions at both national and regional levels. They fully supported the work on the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, whose adoption would help to reinforce the normative framework.

61. The fact remained that, for all their determination, many States in the region did not have sufficient capacity for effectively combating terrorism, and were in need of assistance in that regard.

62. Speaking on behalf of the New Zealand delegation, he announced that as soon as the counter-terrorism act at present before Parliament was adopted, his country would be in a position to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, thus becoming a party to all 12 international conventions relating to terrorism, as well as to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

63. **Mr. Leon** (Brazil), associating himself with the statement made by Peru on behalf of the Rio Group, said that his country had ratified 9 out of the 12 international conventions on terrorism and should before long accede to the remaining three.

64. Despite the divergences still existing in connection with articles 2 bis and 18, it was a matter of urgency to complete the drafting of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would form the basis needed for the establishment of a global legal regime for the implementation of the instruments in force. His country was also in favour of convening a high-level conference for the purpose of formulating a response on behalf of the international community as a whole, and supported the efforts of the working group on drafting an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

65. His country's laws were currently being revised with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of Brazil's contribution towards the international counter-terrorism struggle. In that context, his Government welcomed the work accomplished by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with which it would continue to collaborate.

66. Brazil also participated in the anti-terrorist struggle at the regional, subregional and continental levels. A special working group had been established within the framework of MERCOSUR with a view to developing a joint strategy for the region. At the level of the South American continent, Brazil had signed and would shortly ratify the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism dealing with the prevention of the financing of terrorist acts, the strengthening of frontier controls, and cooperation in the field of law implementation.

67. In conclusion, he reminded Committee members that poverty, ignorance, despair and exclusion were the mainsprings of terrorism.

68. **Ms. Knowles** (Australia) recalled that about a year previously, 88 Australians had lost their lives and 202 had been wounded in the Bali terrorist bombing. Since then, the terrorists had by no means laid down their arms. On the contrary, they continued to wreak havoc all over the planet. The United Nations itself had not been spared.

69. In combating the scourge of terrorism, her Government, which associated itself fully with the statement made by the representative of New Zealand on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, had set up a network of bilateral counter-terrorism agreements with Governments in the region in order to facilitate cooperation between police, security and information services as well as between authorities responsible for customs, immigration, transport and financial operations. Australia was also assisting countries of the region to enhance their capacities for combating terrorism in the fields of law enforcement, border administration, transport security, information and the reinforcement of the arsenal of laws.

70. So far as regional initiatives were concerned, Australia had co-organized with Indonesia in December 2002 a conference on the struggle against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, which supplemented the work of the Asia-Pacific Group, co-chaired by Australia and the Republic of Korea. In February 2004 her country would co-organize, again with Indonesia, a regional ministerial conference on counter-terrorism, to be held in Bali. It was also engaged in other initiatives within regional

forums such as APEC, ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum.

71. However great the importance of regional initiatives, concerted action at world level was still called for, and the United Nations was the place for such action. Her country firmly supported the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee on Sanctions established pursuant to resolution 1267. It would look with favour upon the forming of a small permanent secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to be financed within the limits of available resources.

72. In conclusion, the expressed the hope that divergences of views existing in the Sixth Committee could be speedily overcome so that the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism might be adopted.

73. **Mr. Lavalle-Valdés** (Guatemala) said that terrorists had access to impressive financial and technical resources and even to the support of certain Governments. That was why extradition treaties and cooperation agreements between judiciary and police authorities, although indispensable, remained insufficient. Only a well-conceived international judiciary centre could make the effective struggle against terrorism a reality. But the two draft conventions before the Committee were in a state of deadlock, essentially for political reasons. The need to surmount the divergences of views that stood in the way of the successful conclusion of the negotiations and the early adoption of the two drafts could not be over-emphasized.

74. **Mr. Al-Emadi** (Qatar) said that States had to fight terrorism collectively and to mobilize themselves at the international level under the auspices of the United Nations, the authority best placed to take up with determination and efficacy the challenge to the whole of mankind that terrorism represented.

75. The definition of terrorism and the drafting of a comprehensive convention were not purely theoretical matters. A clear and full definition would make it possible to delimit the phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations. In the definition it adopted, the international community must take care to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of people against occupation and their right to self-determination.

76. The international community was, of course, duty bound to everything in its power to ensure that wanted terrorists were brought to justice, but it must also endeavour to tackle the root causes of terrorism. Thus, it should work actively towards resolving political problems at the international level, ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth, attenuate poverty, reduce economic differences between States and combat ignorance, which encouraged terrorism. His country, which was a party to many international anti-terrorism conventions, was in favour of holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations for the purpose of defining the phenomenon of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and of facing up to its causes.77. **Mr. Al-Salehi** (Oman) said that international terrorism was not peculiar to any particular region, race or religion but was the result of the way in which the international situation had developed in the past few years.

78. In order to combat the threat to international peace and security that terrorism represented, it was necessary to enhance international cooperation and to investigate the causes of terrorism. In particular, consideration should be given to assigning additional resources to the least advanced countries in order to help them to combat the scourge of terrorism.

79. His delegation, which had always firmly condemned terrorism, could not help noting that certain States were taking advantage of the present situation to serve their narrow interests and did not hesitate to commit open violations of the Charter. For that reason, there was an imperative need to agree on a definition of terrorism that would clearly establish the difference between acts of terror and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self- self-determination or against foreign domination.

80. **Mr. Morshed** (Bangladesh) said that his country, which attached great importance to the struggle against terrorism, had adopted many measures to contribute towards the elimination of the threat it represented. At the international level, it had become a party to the international instruments relating to terrorism, adopted the legislative procedures needed for their domestic implementation, and was on the point of depositing its instruments of ratification with the United Nations. National courts could now implement the provisions of the ASEAN Convention on the suppression of terrorism, signed in 1997. Bangladesh had also

undertaken to contribute towards the drafting of a protocol to that convention.

81. At the national level, Parliament had adopted acts on money laundering consistent with the objectives of the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Since any amendment to the national laws involved a revision of the Penal Code, his country would appreciate technical assistance both in updating its old laws and in drafting new ones.

82. Terrorism was the product not only of poverty and exploitation but also of feelings of persecution and injustice. His delegation considered, therefore, that an exclusively military response could not eliminate the deeper causes of the phenomenon. Poverty, unemployment and inequalities had to be tackled at the same time.

83. His delegation associated itself with the Working Group's recommendation that work be continued on the drafting of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and of the international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It was important to arrive at a widely accepted definition of terrorism, and the convening of a high-level international conference would also be extremely useful in that respect.

84. **Mr. Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the effectiveness of the struggle against terrorism depended on each State's commitment to accede to international conventions and to take steps to ensure their full implementation at the national level.

85. With that end in view, and in pursuance of resolution 1373 (2001), a national committee for the coordination of the struggle against international terrorism had been established in his country. Measures were to be taken shortly to revise and harmonise the domestic laws, particularly as regards cooperation, information exchange and mutual judicial assistance.

86. His country had acceded to a number of United Nations conventions and protocols dealing with the anti-terrorism struggle, and had also become a party to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism. Consultations were in progress with a view to the ratification of those conventions to which the Democratic Republic of the Congo was not yet a party.

87. The process of incorporating certain conventions and protocols in domestic law had already begun, in particular with a view to establishing the competence of national courts to judge the perpetrators of acts of international terrorism and to make international terrorism an offence within the meaning of articles 145 to 160 of the new Code of Military Justice. A bill on the financing of terrorism and money laundering had also been drafted recently.

88. In response to the request for assistance formulated in his country's first report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention had organised a two-day technical seminar for members of the national committee for the coordination of counter-terrorism measures. His country would appreciate other initiatives of the same type in the fields of technical, financial and procedural assistance with a view to enhancing the national committee's capacity to coordinate the implementation of all international conventions on terrorism in collaboration with the commission for the reform of Congolese law and with the national authorities concerned.

89. Efforts towards the drafting of an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism should be continued, as well as those towards the preparation of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would draw a clear distinction between blind acts of terrorism and the struggle of peoples against foreign occupation.

90. Referring to article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention, he remarked that the disagreements on that score reflected the diversity of views on terrorism. For some, it was something that could only be practised by individuals or by isolated groups, while for others, the concept of terrorism included large-scale operations conducted for political ends and with more serious consequences by certain States. The activities of the armed forces of States should always be carried out in conformity with the Charter and international humanitarian law.

91. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which would represent a major addition to the existing instruments, thus greatly enhancing the framework of international law in the field of terrorism.

92. **Mr. Latheef** (Maldives) remarked that terrorist networks were becoming more and more organized and were using increasingly sophisticated methods. No country, however powerful, could feel safe or hope to deal with the problem of terrorism on its own. The suffering and destruction that terrorists were able to wreak in major countries were a measure of the threat they posed to smaller and less powerful ones. It was therefore imperative that the international community should help those countries to enhance their institutional capacity and should provide them with the technical assistance they needed in order to participate in the counter-terrorism struggle.

93. His country had taken the requisite measures to adapt its domestic legislation and was a party to many of the international and regional conventions on terrorism. Procedures for accession to the instruments to which Maldives was not yet a party were in progress.

94. Commending the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee for their efforts to promote the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), he expressed the hope that the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism and draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would soon be adopted.

95. **Mr. Al-Emadi** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) noted the international community's efforts to take effective measures against terrorism. His country, for its part, had extensively participated in those efforts at the international, bilateral and regional levels. Indeed, it had been a precursor by denouncing terrorism in the mid-1970s as a dangerous phenomenon that had to be suppressed before the situation got out of hand.

96. His country's position of principle in the matter derived from the fact that it had long been a victim not only of acts of terrorism committed by groups and individuals, but also of State terrorism, of which many other States and the Palestinian people were victims today. The Governments responsible for State terrorism had justified it by saying that it was not they but the Jamahiriya that was committing acts of terrorism or encouraging others to commit them. State terrorism assumed many forms, including that of the iniquitous unilateral sanctions that were contrary to the principles of international law. In some cases, in complete defiance of international legality and the rules of international law, State terrorism went as far as the recourse to armed force. While the Jamahiriya, long before anyone else, had insisted that the terrorists be brought to justice, others had supported them and treated them as freedom fighters. Many States had offered them asylum and encouraged them to commit terrorist acts.97. His country had acceded to the 12 international and the two Arab and African counter-terrorism conventions. It participated actively in the work of the Sixth Committee, its Working Group and the Ad Hoc Committee entrusted with the drafting of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism and an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. In that connection, the Jamahiriya had called for a precise definition to be made of the act constituting a punishable offence under international law and for a distinction to be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples in defence of their universally recognized right to self-determination and freedom from foreign domination and occupation. His delegation supported the position of the Organization of the Islamic Conference as set forth in draft article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention before the Ad Hoc Committee.

98. His country had cooperated fully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to which it had submitted the requisite reports, and was determined to continue such cooperation in order to help the Committee to achieve its goals. It believed in the importance of conducting an objective study of the root causes of the emergence and expansion of international terrorism, and suggested that such a study should form the subject of an item on the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in response to the request of the Jamahiriya and other countries.

99. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt), associating himself with the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of the countries members of the Organizations of the Islamic Conference, said that concerted efforts were essential if the struggle against terrorism were to succeed. Closer international cooperation was needed in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist acts. But the struggle against terrorism must be conducted in full respect of State sovereignty and the rule of international law, including international humanitarian law.

100. Strengthening the dialogue between civilisations and religions was, in his opinion, especially important. The United Nations was best placed to play the role of

a catalyst in that regard. Experience had shown that the practice of terrorism was not confined to any one culture or religious tradition. It was therefore important not to tackle the problem from the narrow standpoint of security but, rather, to adopt an approach covering all the dimensions of the phenomenon, while at the same time categorically rejecting any attempt to "whitewash" terrorism.

101. Ever since 1995 Egypt had launched high-level consultations with a view to the holding of a conference against terrorism that would not be confined to sterile debates but would result in a binding instrument in which the limits of State responsibility would be clearly defined. The fight against terrorism must not be targeted on certain religions and cultures under the pretext of their "difference". Furthermore, a distinction must be drawn between acts of terrorism condemned by the international community and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination.

102. In conclusion, he called upon the international community to live up to its responsibilities and reaffirmed his country's readiness to participate in all efforts that might be undertaken in the field of the fight against terrorism.

103. **Mr. Adamou** (Niger) said that his country had taken steps to reinforce the security of embassies, offices of international organizations and airports. An Act was currently being drafted that would enable the protection of diplomatic missions and representations to be systematised.

104. At the international level, his country had signed or ratified most of the legal instruments relating to terrorism.

105. At the bilateral level, it had concluded judicial cooperation agreements with the neighbouring States and with most of its partners. Besides those formal agreements, intense cooperation had developed between his country's police, customs, army and gendarmerie, on the one hand, and their opposite numbers in the countries which were Niger's principal bilateral and multilateral partners.

106. As several speakers had pointed out, terrorism was kept alive by such factors as poverty, ignorance and illiteracy. It was therefore important that the international community adopt a global approach to the problem and be mindful of the needs and proposition of the poorest countries. The success of the counter-terrorism struggle presupposed the enhancement of national capacities at both the financial and the institutional levels.

107. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) commended the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee on all they had done to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It was encouraging to note that the great majority of States Members had acceded to the 12 international conventions relating to terrorism or were on the point of doing so. His delegation considered, nevertheless, that those instruments had only limited scope and deplored the slowness of progress made in drafting an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

108. In parallel with efforts to set up effective international machinery, the work of in-depth analysis of the prime causes of terrorism should be continued. In that connection, he took the view that the supposed "Islamic threat" was a myth of an extremely dangerous kind. While it was true that in certain Arab or Asian countries international terrorism was trying to hide behind the precepts of Islam, his delegation was firmly convinced that terrorism had nothing in common, at the social or ideological level, with Islam, which, like the planet's other great religions, attached the greatest value to human life.

109. The promotion of a dialogue between civilisations and religions was a matter of the greatest importance in producing a culture capable of ensuring peace and stability. With that aim in view, his country had organized the first congress of political and religious leaders in September 2003.

110. Kazakhstan also participated in other regional or international initiatives, such as the Conference and security measures in Asia, the work of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the establishment of a counter-terrorism centre of the Community of Independent States. His country stood ready to provide the Counter-Terrorism Committee with any support it might need in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.